

# Expediting Deep Learning with Transfer Learning: PyTorch Playbook

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GETTING STARTED WITH TRANSFER LEARNING



**Janani Ravi**

CO-FOUNDER, LOONYCORN

[www.loonycorn.com](http://www.loonycorn.com)

# Overview

**Understand the use of pre-trained models and transfer learning**

**Understand source and destination domains**

**Understanding source and destination tasks**

**Learn when to use transfer learning**

**Explore PyTorch support for transfer learning**

# Prerequisites and Course Outline

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# Prerequisites

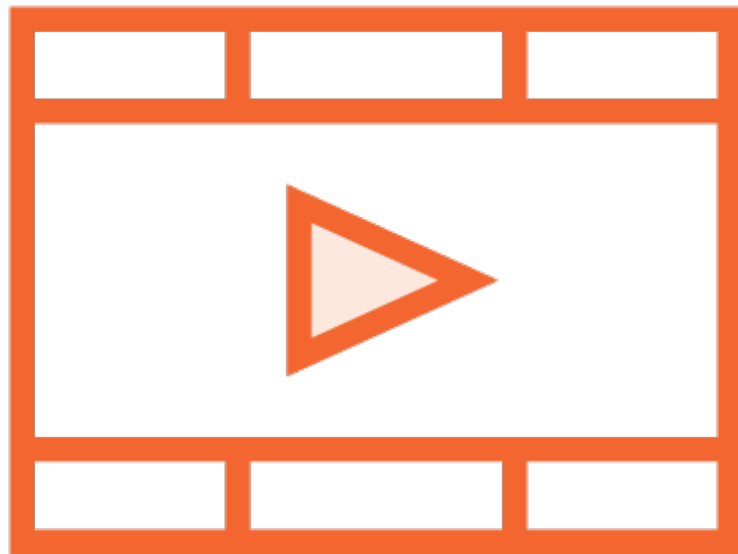


**Comfortable programming in Python**

**Basic understanding of neural networks**

**Worked with PyTorch to build and train neural networks**

# Prerequisite Courses



**Foundations of PyTorch**

**Building Your First PyTorch Solution**

**Image Classification With PyTorch**

# Course Outline



**Understanding and leveraging transfer learning**

**Performing fixed feature extraction with pre-trained models**

**Reusing model architectures and designs**

# Transfer Learning

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# Transfer Learning

The practice of re-using a trained neural network that solves a problem similar to yours, usually leaving the network architecture unchanged and re-using some or all of the model weights.



Avoid designing NN  
architecture from scratch

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Only makes sense for common,  
widely studied use-cases

# Transfer Learning

The practice of re-using a trained neural network **that solves a problem similar to yours**, usually leaving the network architecture unchanged and re-using some or all of the model weights.



In which basic problem structure stays same, but details vary

# Transfer Learning

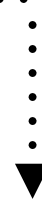
The practice of re-using a trained neural network **that solves a problem similar to yours**, usually leaving the network architecture unchanged and re-using some or all of the model weights.



Image recognition, language translation are classic examples

# Transfer Learning

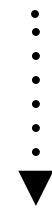
The practice of re-using a trained neural network that solves a problem similar to yours, **usually leaving the network architecture unchanged** and re-using some or all of the model weights.



Often the hardest part - allows us to “stand on the shoulders of giants”

# Transfer Learning

The practice of re-using a trained neural network that solves a problem similar to yours, usually leaving the network architecture unchanged and **re-using some or all of the model weights.**



Re-train from scratch, fine-tune model weights, use entirely as-is

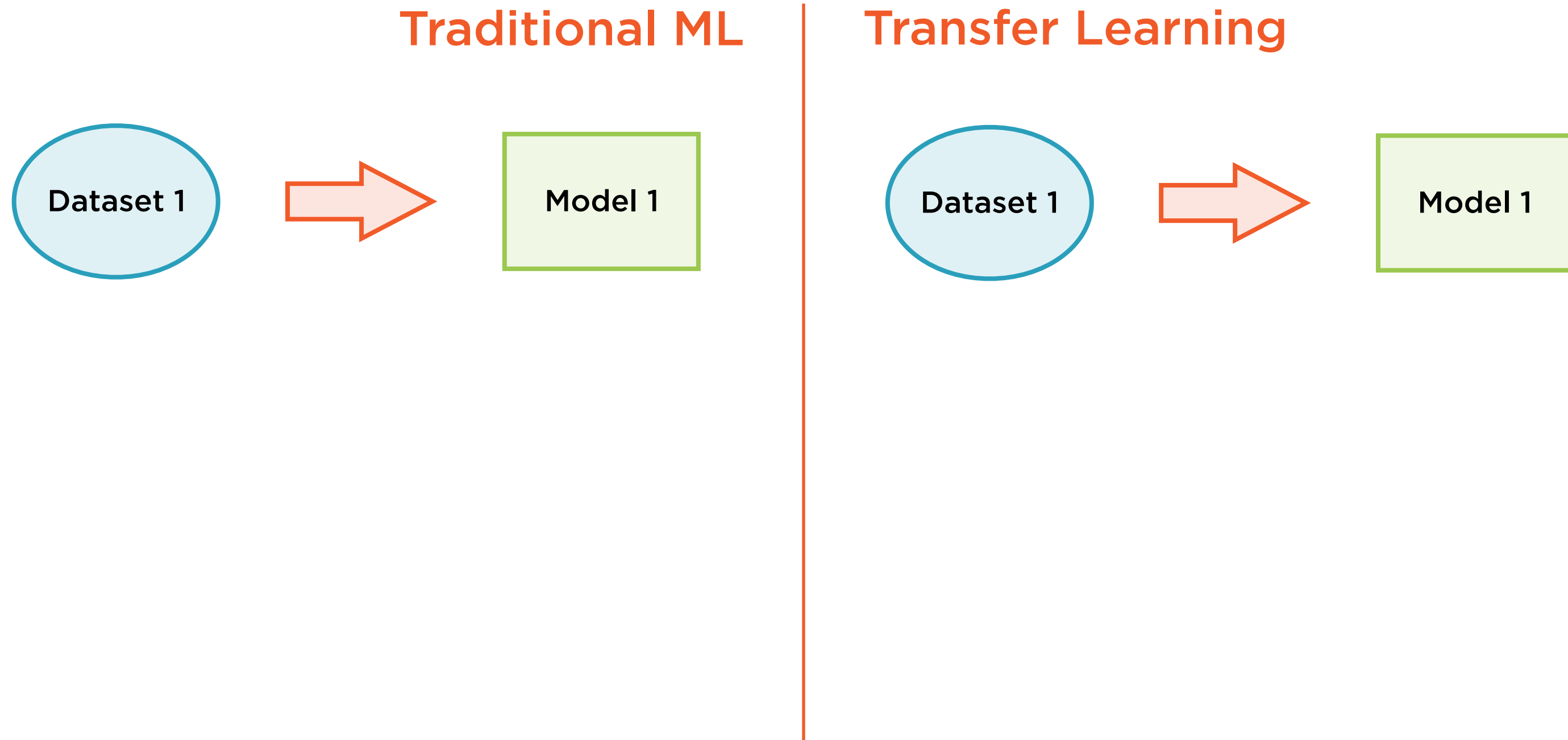
# Transfer Learning

The practice of re-using a trained neural network that solves a problem similar to yours, usually leaving the network architecture unchanged and **re-using some or all of the model weights.**



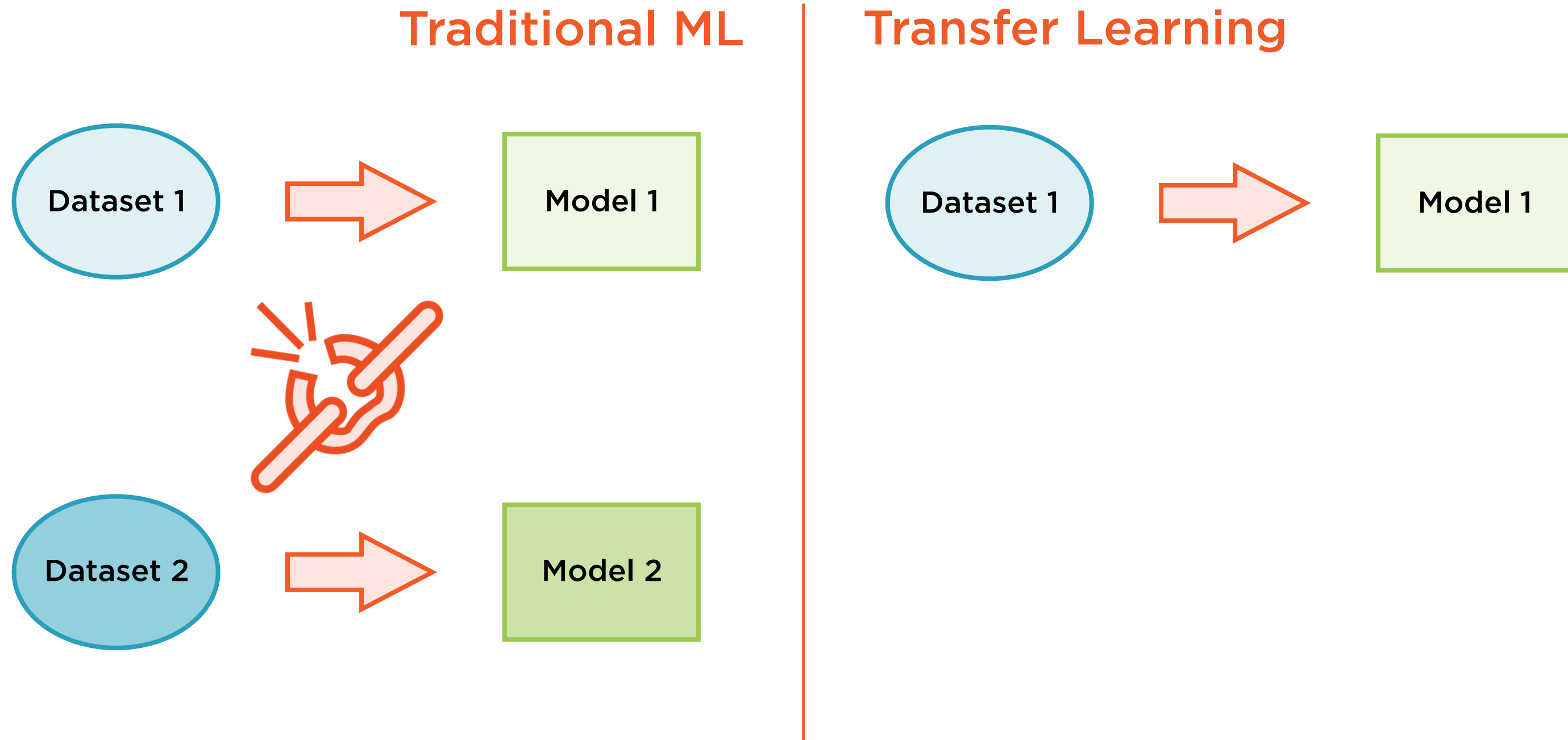
Several choices based on size and similarity of datasets

# Traditional ML vs. Transfer Learning

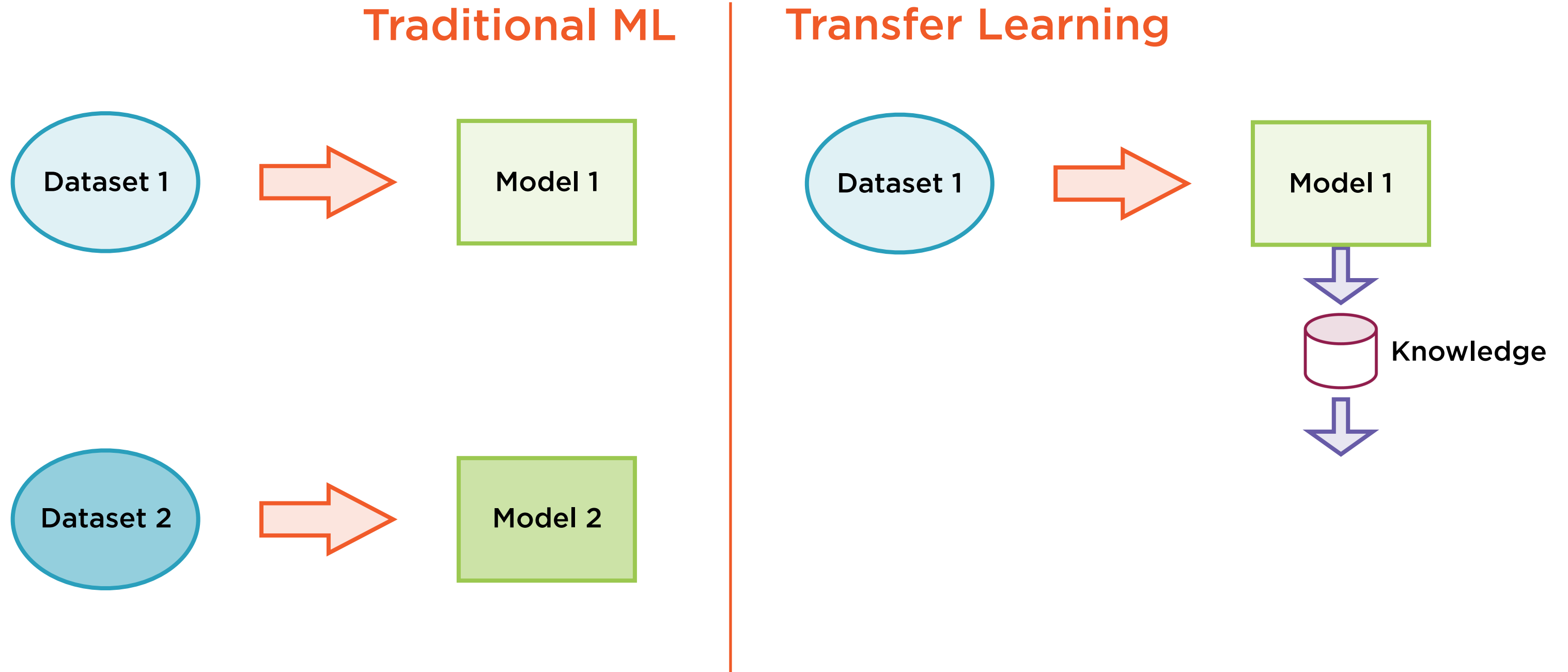




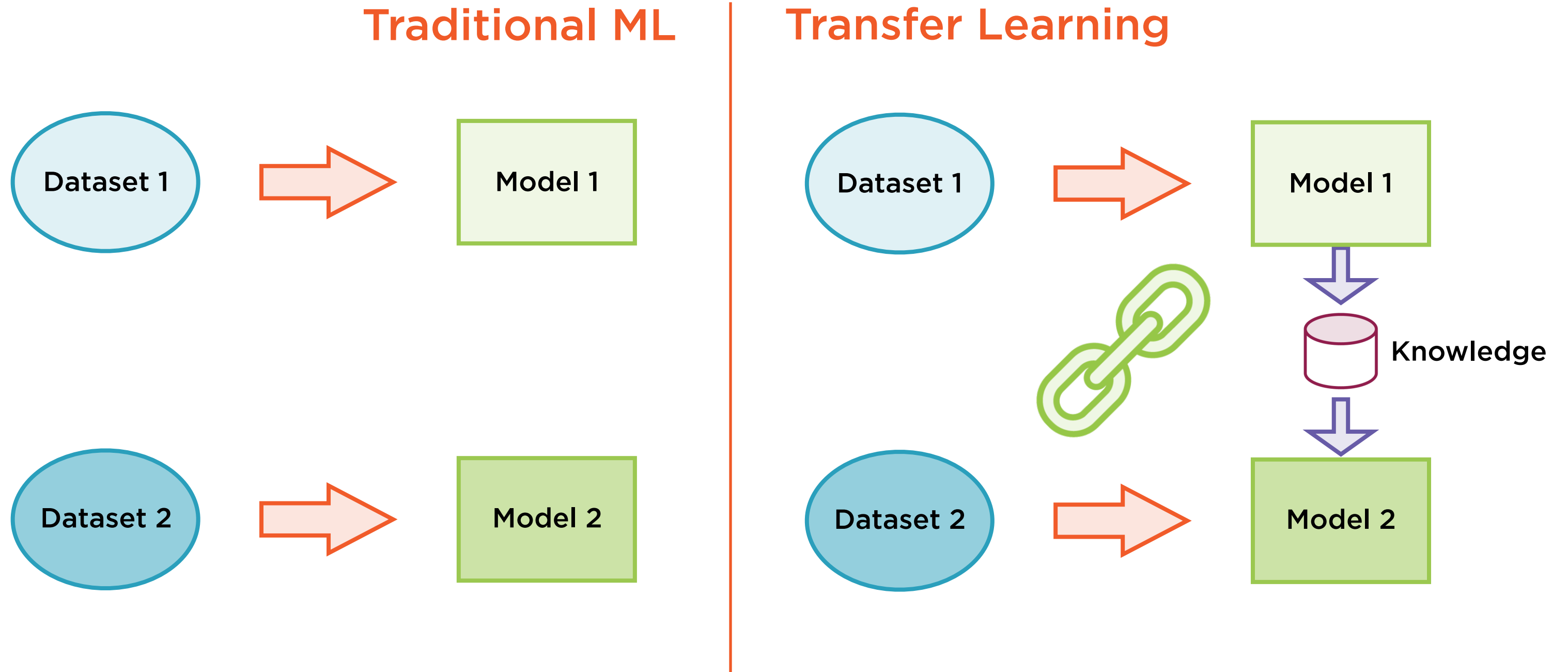
# Traditional ML vs. Transfer Learning



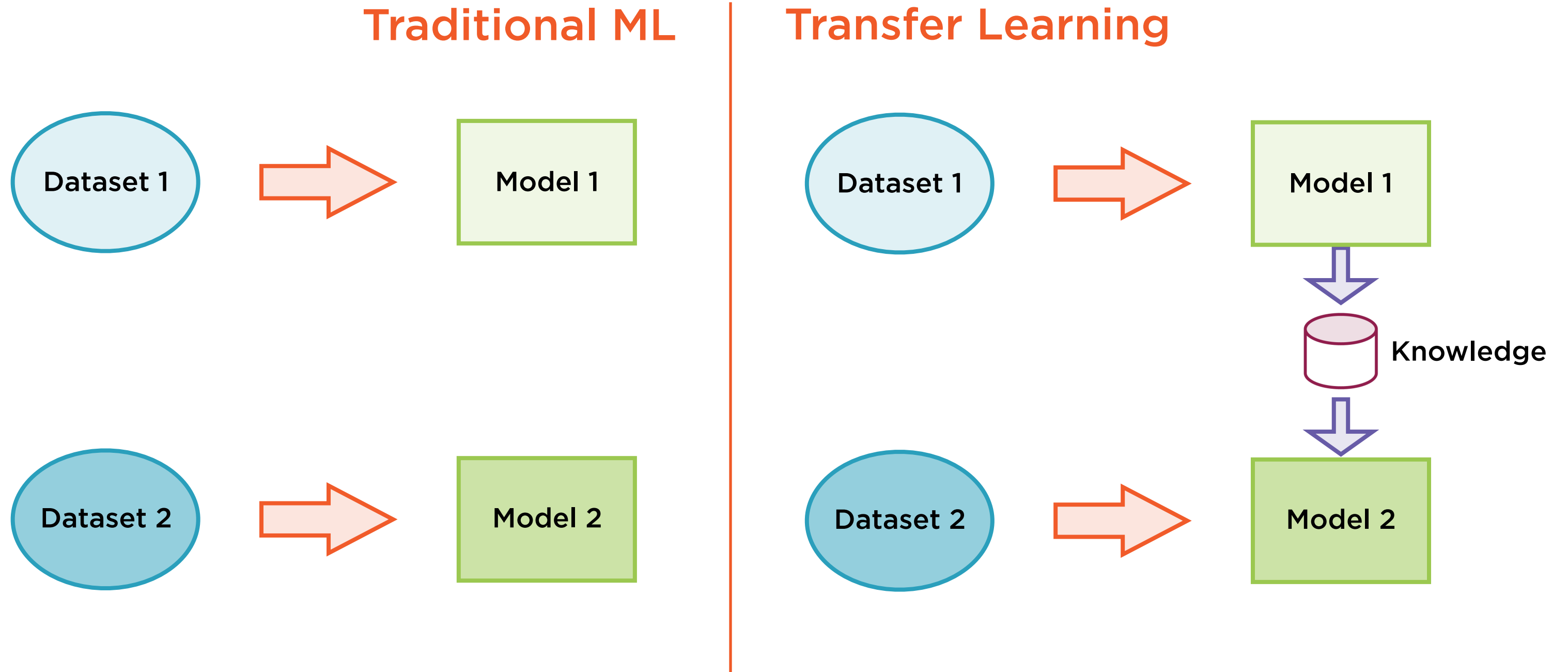
# Traditional ML vs. Transfer Learning



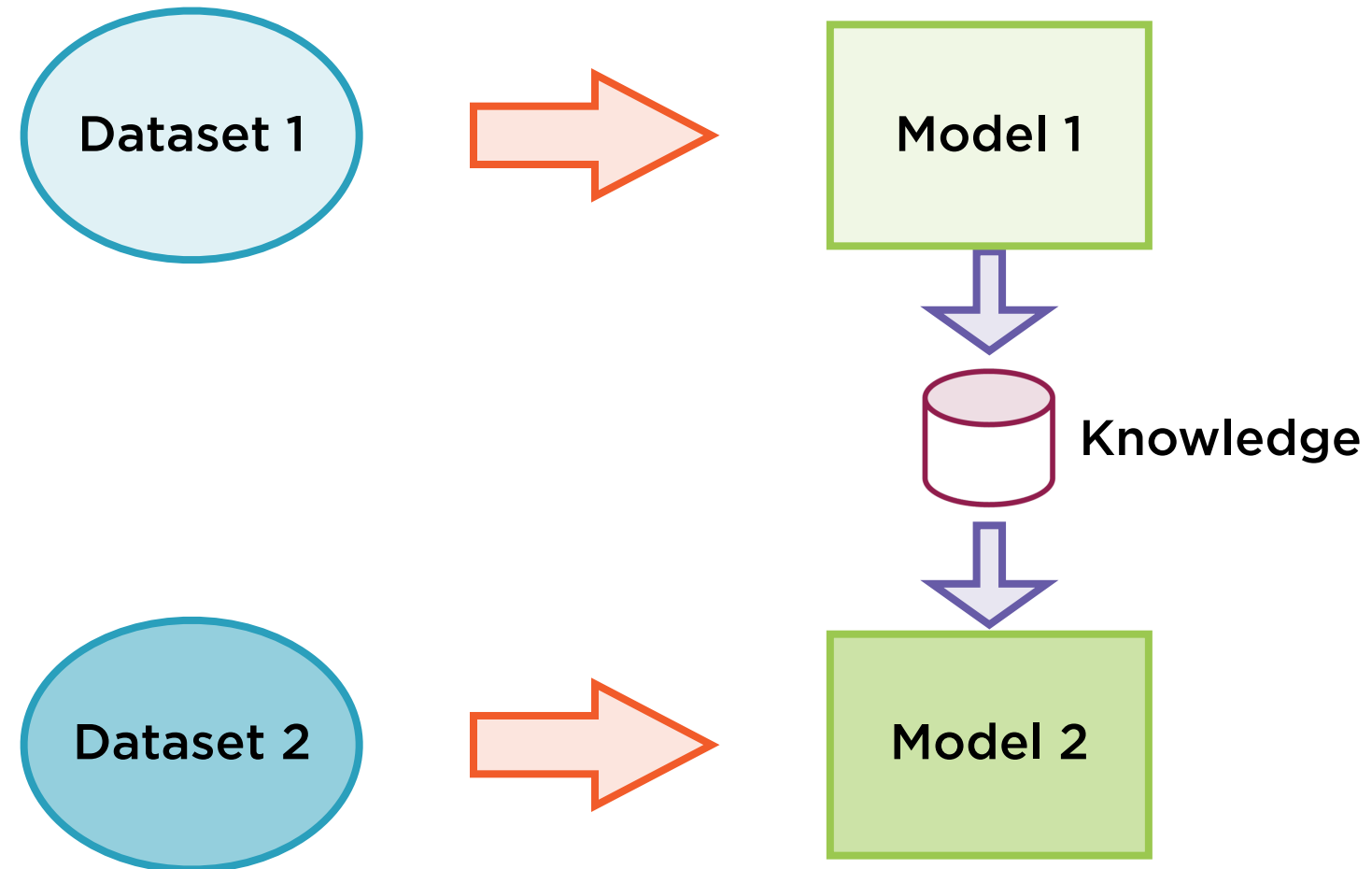
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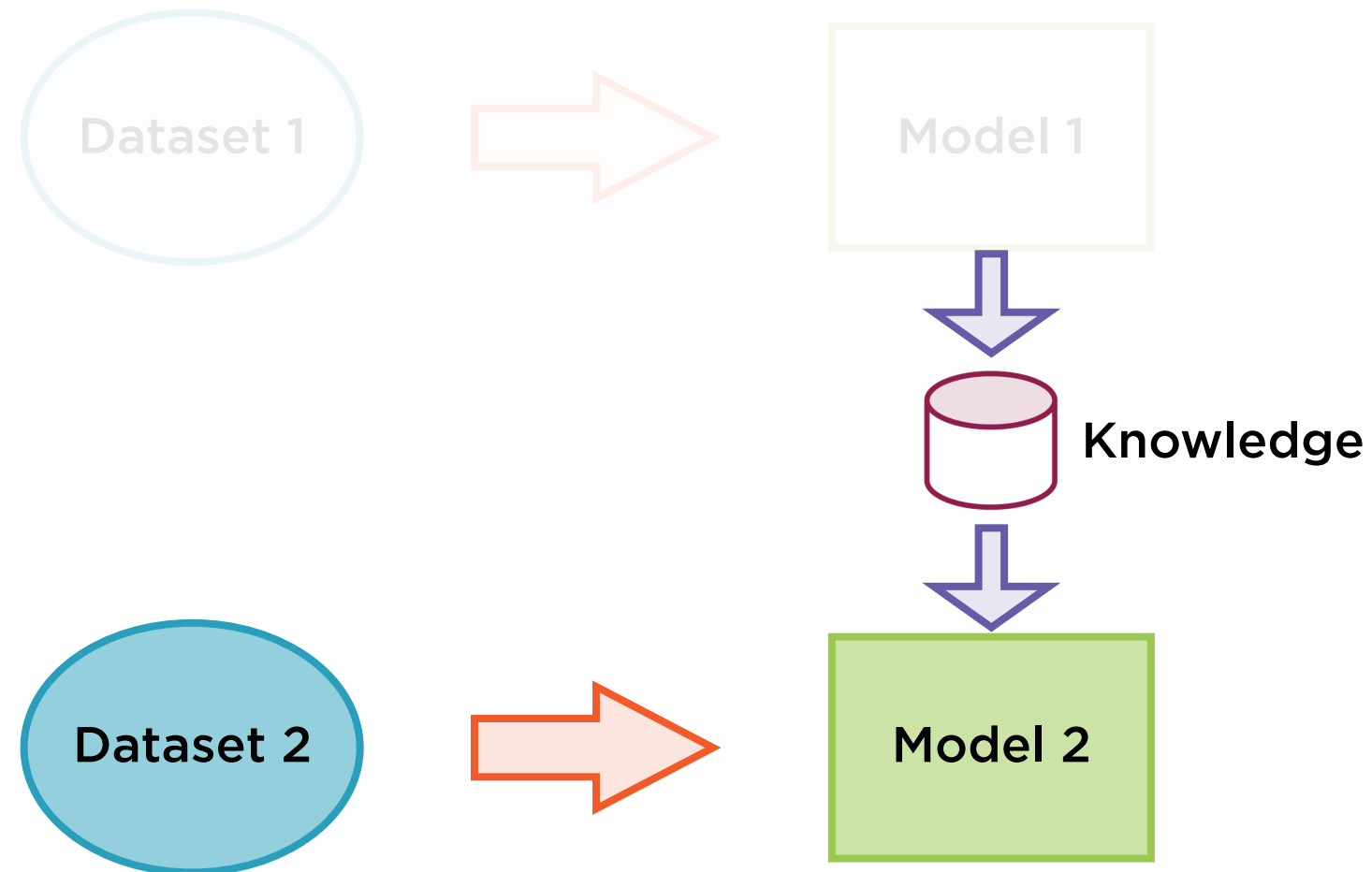
# Traditional ML vs. Transfer Learning



# Transfer Learning



# Transfer Learning



**Transferred knowledge is especially useful when the new dataset is small and not sufficient to train a model from scratch**

# Source and Target Domains and Tasks

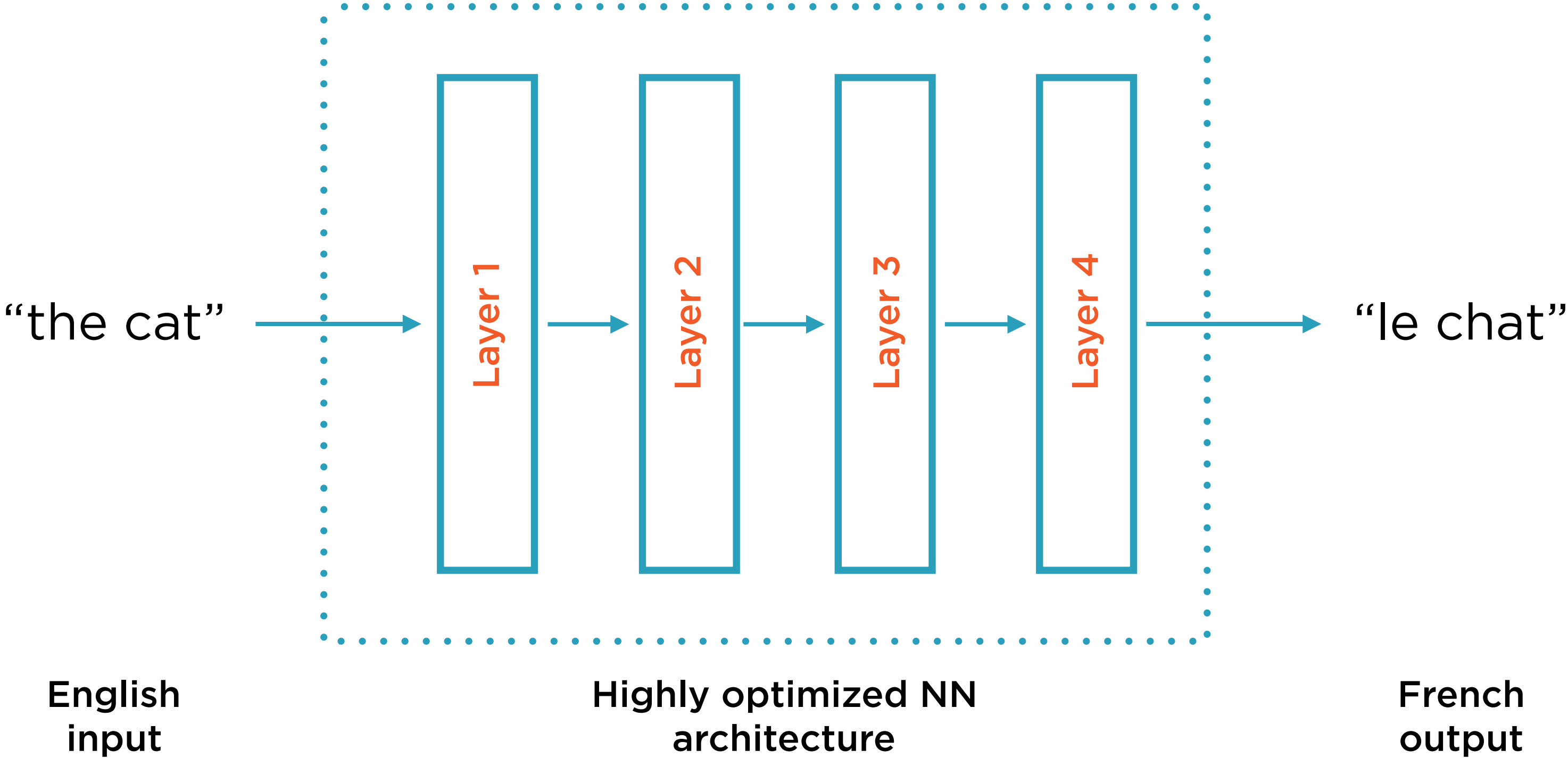
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# A Survey on Transfer Learning

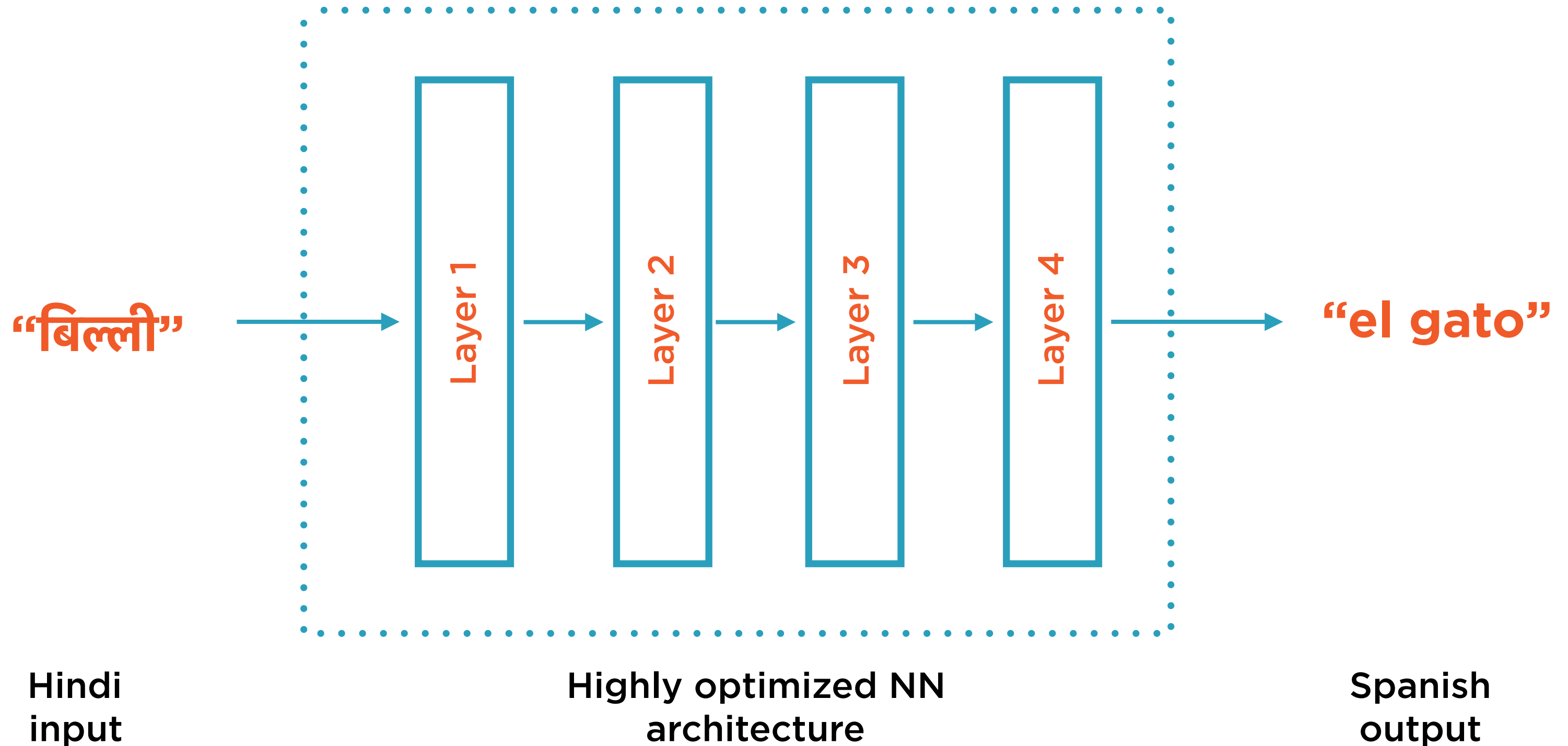
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/5288526>



# Original Model: English to French



# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish



# Source and Target Domains

**Source Domain**

**English**

**Target Domain**

**Hindi**

**Domains refer to where the  $X$  variables are drawn from and how they are distributed**

# Source and Target Tasks

**Source Task**

**Translation to French**

**Target Task**

**Translation to Spanish**

**Tasks refer to the Y variables  
and how they are related to X**

# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**


# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**


**Yes**

**No**

# Source and Target Domains

Target Domain:  
Labels available?

Source Domain:  
Labels available?


Yes

No

# Source and Target Domains

Target Domain:  
Labels available?

Source Domain:  
Labels available?


Yes

No

Yes

No



# Source and Target Domains

Target Domain:  
Labels available?

Source Domain:  
Labels available?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unsupervised transfer learning</li><li>• Clustering</li><li>• Dimensionality Reduction</li></ul>

Yes

No

Yes

No

Source and target domains and tasks are **different** but **related**

# Source and Target Domains

Source and target domains are the **same**

Source and target tasks are **different** but **related**

Source Domain:  
Labels available?

Target Domain:  
Labels available?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-task learning</li><li>• Classification</li><li>• Regression</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unsupervised transfer learning</li><li>• Clustering</li><li>• Dimensionality Reduction</li></ul>

Yes

No

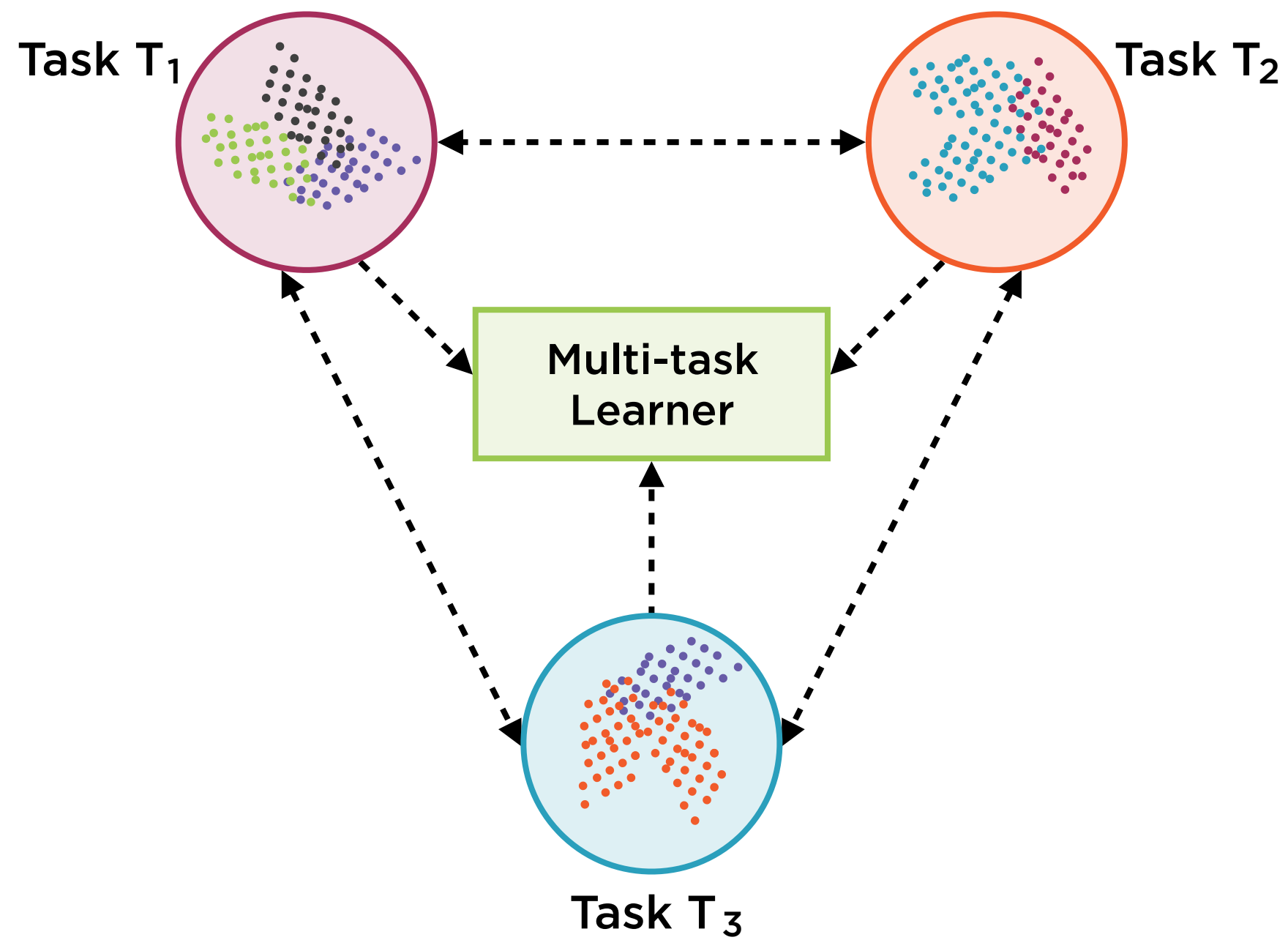
Yes

No

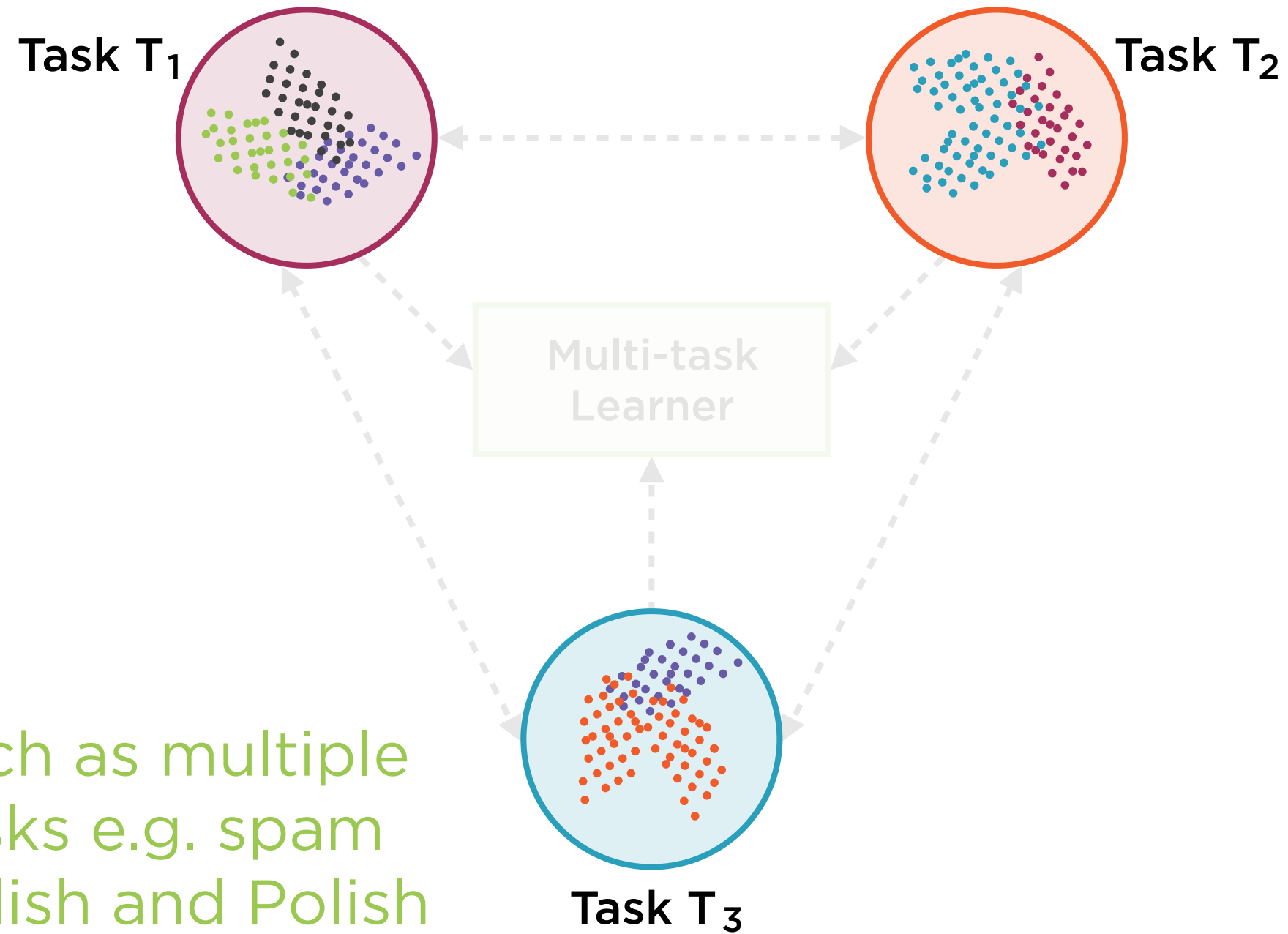
# Multi-task Learning

Subfield of machine learning in which multiple learning tasks are solved at the same time to exploit commonalities across tasks

# Multi-task Learning

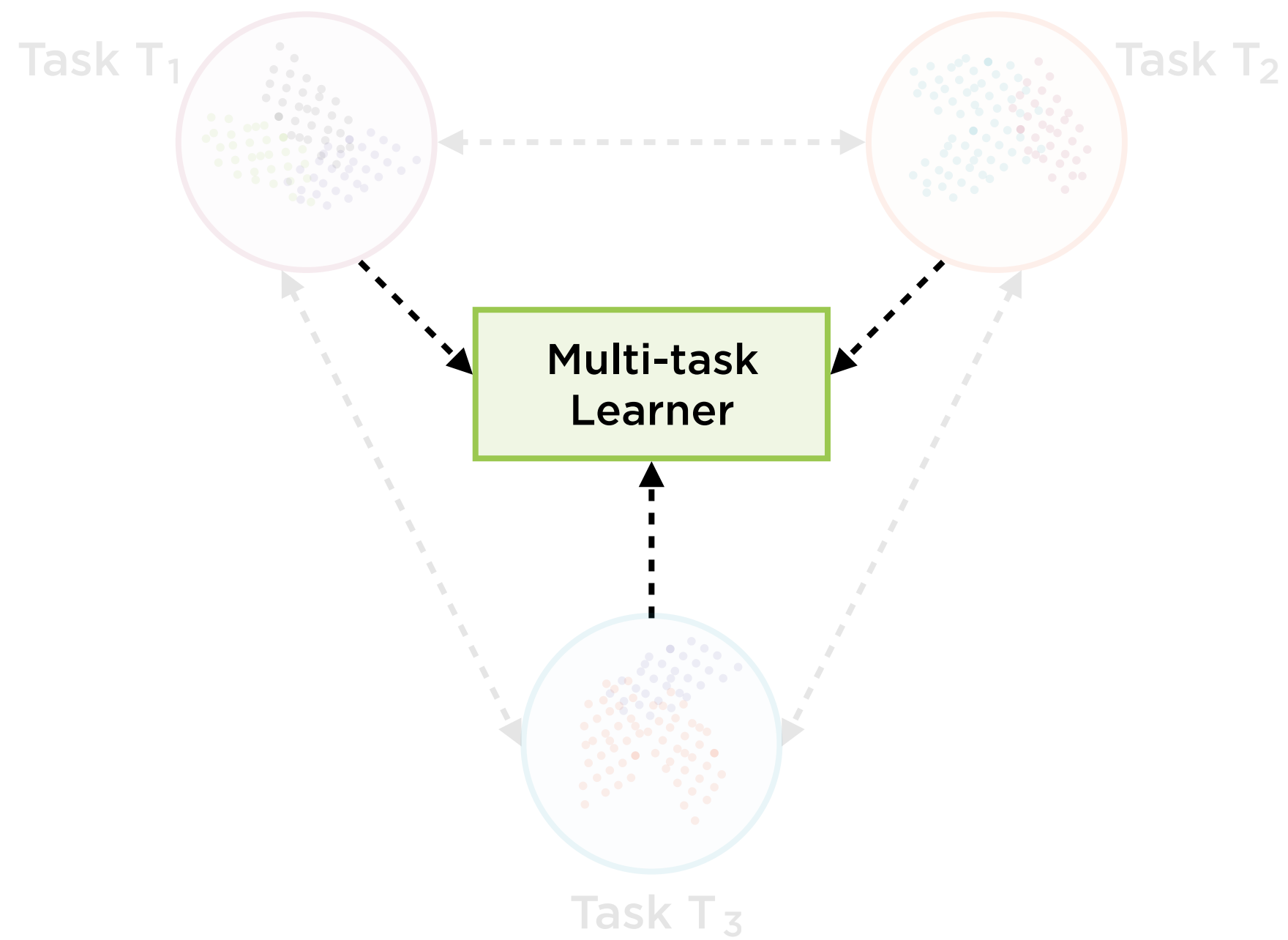


# Multi-task Learning

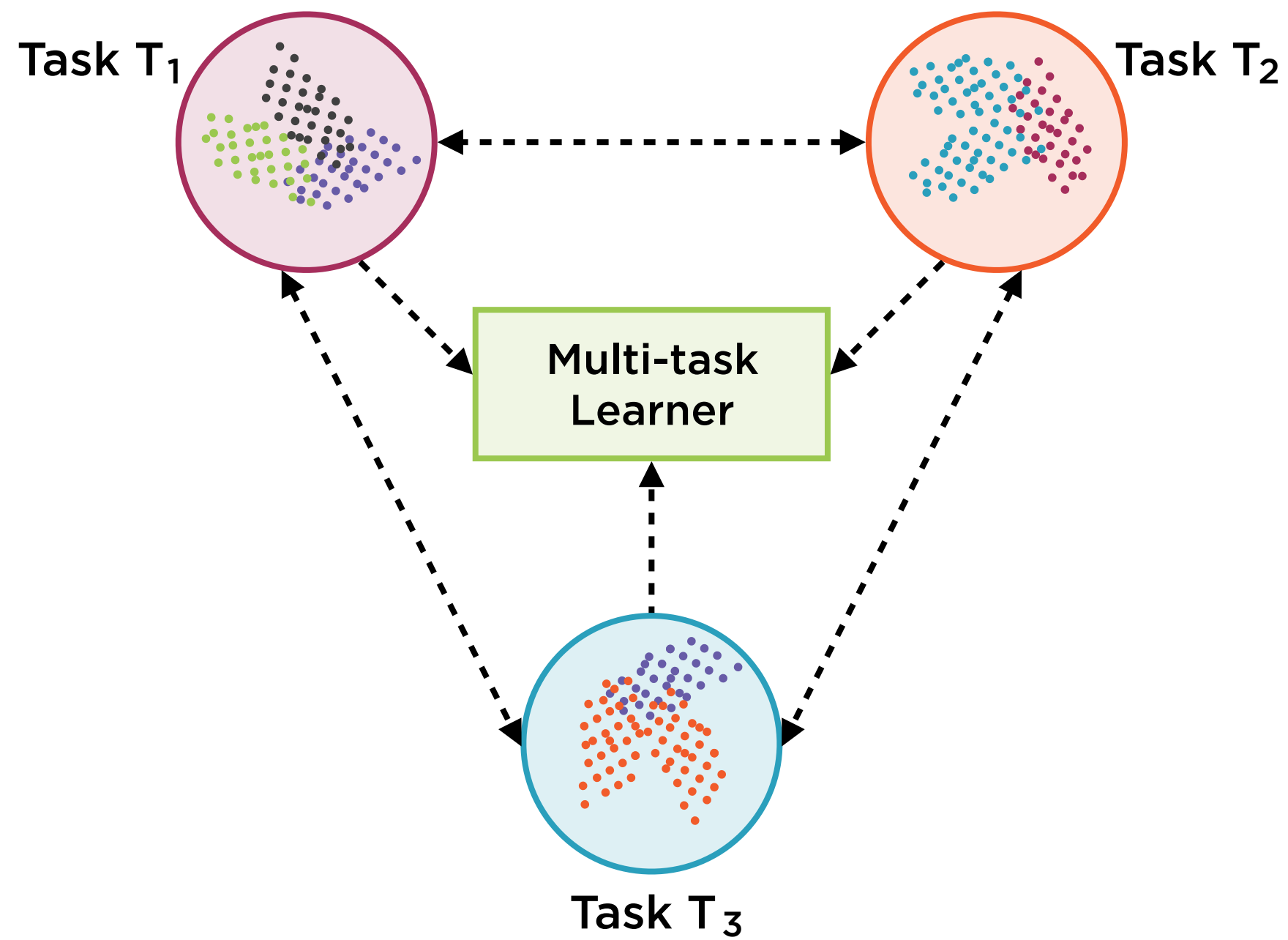


Multiple tasks such as multiple classification tasks e.g. spam detection for English and Polish language users

# Multi-task Learning



# Multi-task Learning



# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-task learning</li><li>• Classification</li><li>• Regression</li></ul>	
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**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**



# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-task learning</li><li>• Classification</li><li>• Regression</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tricky - need expert judgment</li><li>• Are source and target domains the same?</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unsupervised transfer learning</li><li>• Clustering</li><li>• Dimensionality Reduction</li></ul>

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**

# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

Source and target domains  
**different** but **related**

Source and target tasks  
are the **same**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-task learning</li><li>• Classification</li><li>• Regression</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes - Domain is the same fix biases</li><li>• No - Domain is different, needs domain adaptation</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unsupervised transfer learning</li><li>• Clustering</li><li>• Dimensionality Reduction</li></ul>

**Yes**

No

Yes

No

# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-task learning</li><li>• Classification</li><li>• Regression</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes - Domain is the same fix biases</li><li>• No - Domain is different, needs domain adaptation</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-taught learning</li><li>• Transfer learning from unlabeled data</li><li>• Widely used in practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unsupervised transfer learning</li><li>• Clustering</li><li>• Dimensionality Reduction</li></ul>

Yes

No

Yes

No

Source and target domains  
**different** but **related**

Source and target tasks  
are the **same**

# Self-taught Learning

Can be thought of as semi-supervised, transfer learning. Uses labeled data belonging to the desired classes and unlabeled data from other similar classes.

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# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
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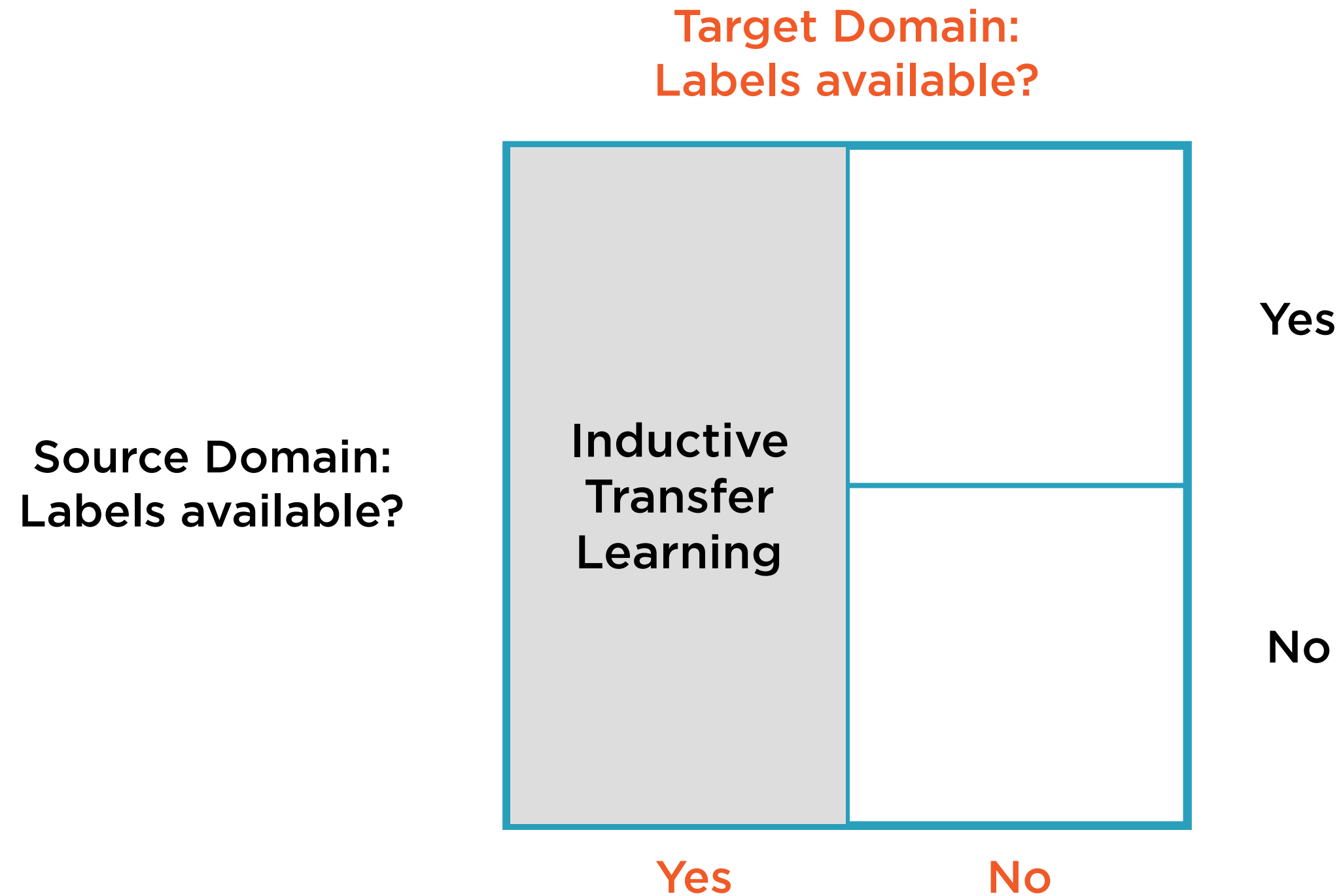
**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**

# Source and Target Domains



# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**

<b>Inductive Transfer Learning</b>	<b>Transductive Transfer Learning</b>

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**



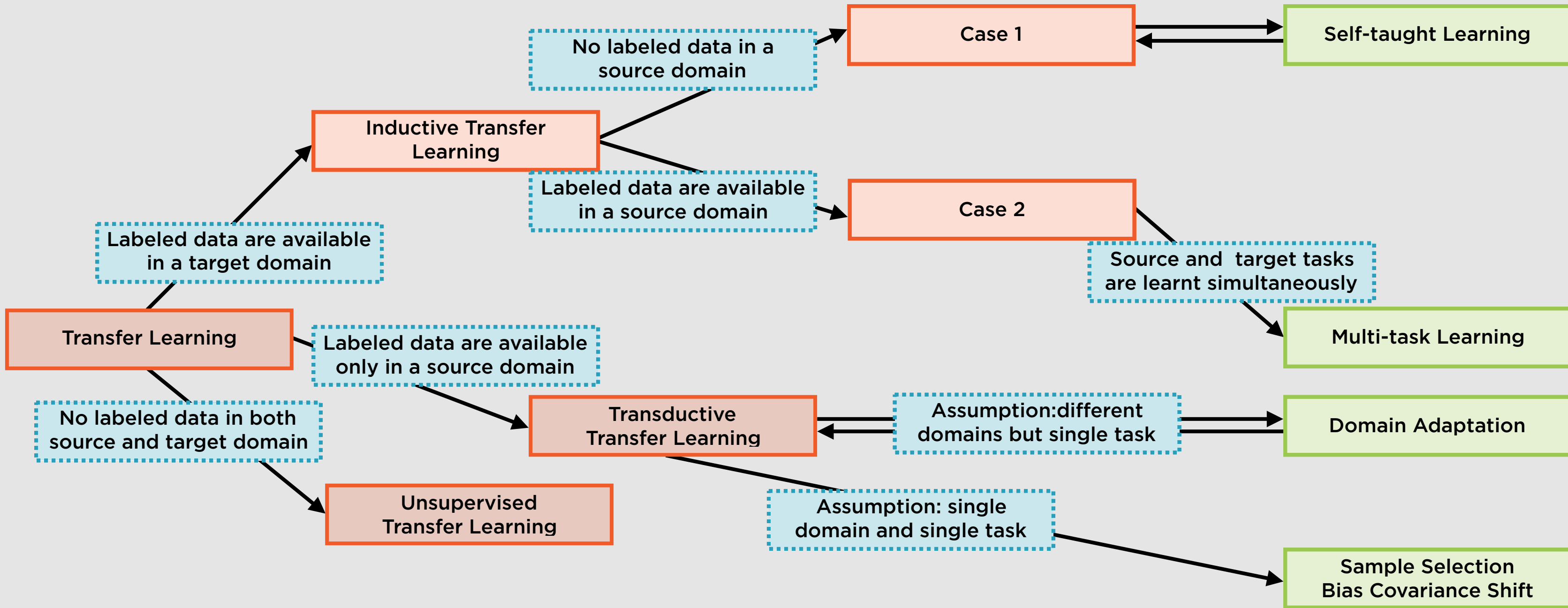
# Source and Target Domains

**Target Domain:  
Labels available?**

**Source Domain:  
Labels available?**

Inductive Transfer Learning	Transductive Transfer Learning	Yes
	Unsupervised Transfer Learning	No
		Yes      No

# Transfer Learning Strategies



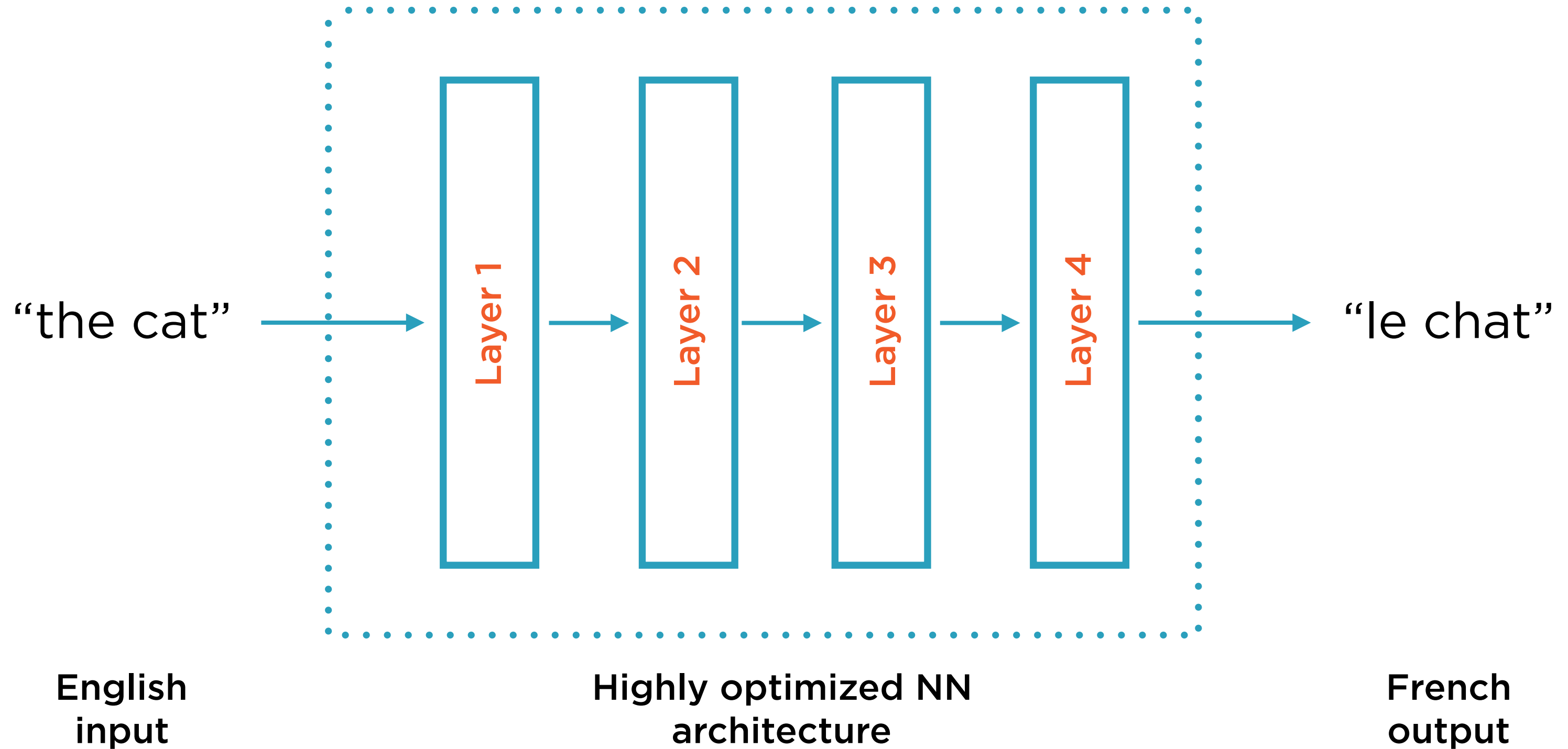
# Types of Transfer Learning Strategies and their Settings

Learning Strategy	Related Areas	Source & Target Domains	Source Domain Labels	Target Domain Labels	Source & Target Tasks	Tasks
Inductive Transfer Learning	Multi_task Learning	The Same	Available	Available	Different but Related	Regression Classification
	Self-taught Learning	The Same	Unavailable	Available	Different but Related	Regression Classification
Unsupervised Transfer Learning		Different but Related	Unavailable	Unavailable	Different but Related	Clustering Dimensionality Reduction
Transductive Transfer Learning	Domain Adaptation, Sample Selection Bias & Co-variate Shift	Different but Related	Available	Unavailable	The Same	Regression Classification

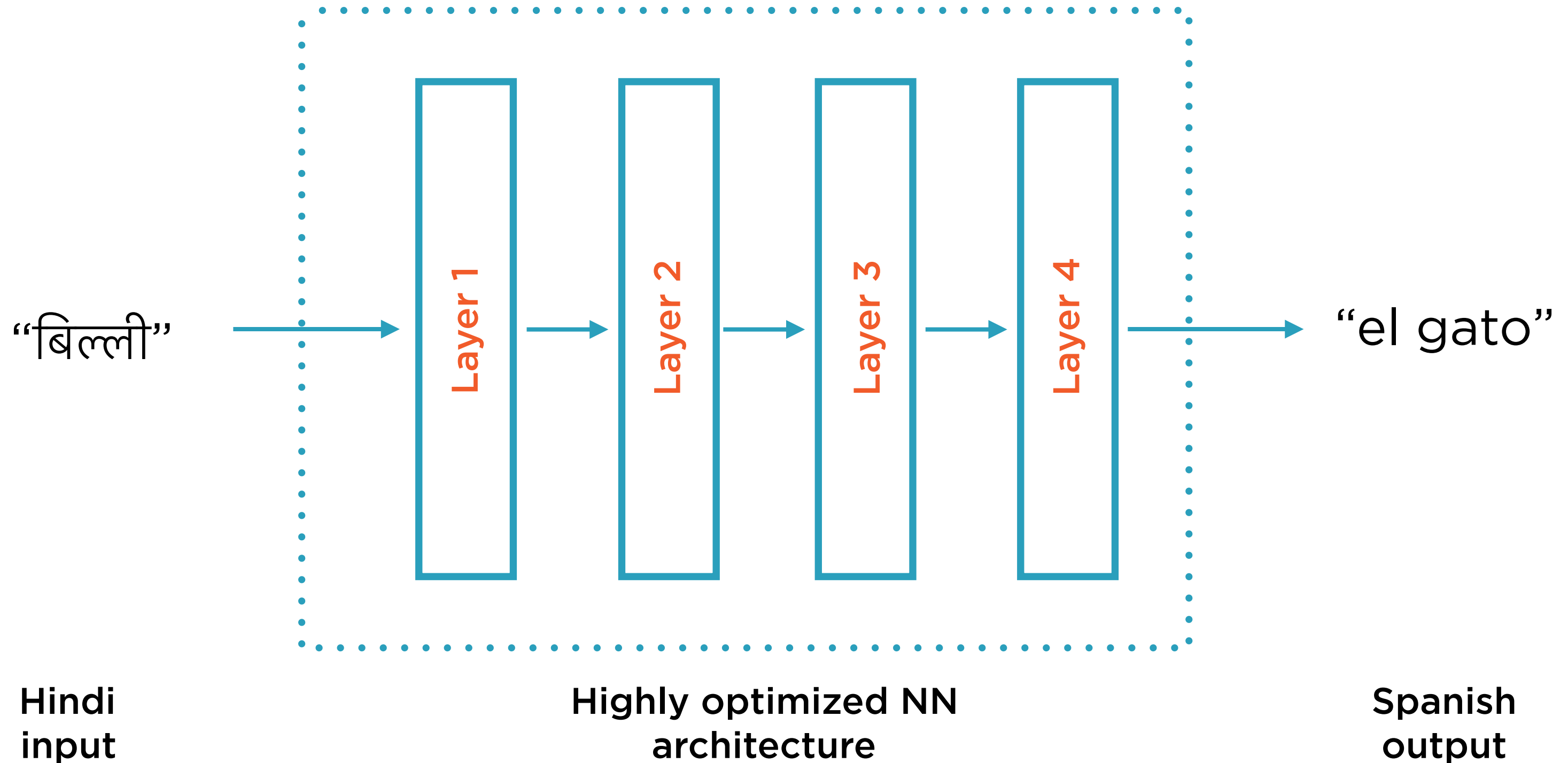
# Scenarios in Transfer Learning

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# Original Model: English to French



# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish



# Re-training vs. Fine-tuning

## **Re-train from scratch**

**Find new model weights starting from scratch**

**Keep model architecture as-is**

## **Fine-tune model weights**

**Find new model weights starting from original model weights**

**Keep model architecture as-is**

# Transfer Learning Scenarios

How similar are the old  
and new datasets?

How much new training  
data is available?


Lots

Little

Different

Similar



# Transfer Learning Scenarios

How similar are the old  
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How much new training  
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	How similar are the old and new datasets?		
	Different	Similar	
How much new training data is available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-use architecture</li><li>• Re-calculate model weights</li><li>• Re-train from scratch</li></ul>		Lots
			Little

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-use architecture</li><li>• Fine-tune model weights</li><li>• Fine-tune only final layers</li></ul>	Little
Different	Similar	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-use architecture</li><li>• Fine-tune model weights</li><li>• Fit classifier on initial layers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-use architecture</li><li>• Fine-tune model weights</li><li>• Fine-tune only final layers</li></ul>	Little
Different	Similar	

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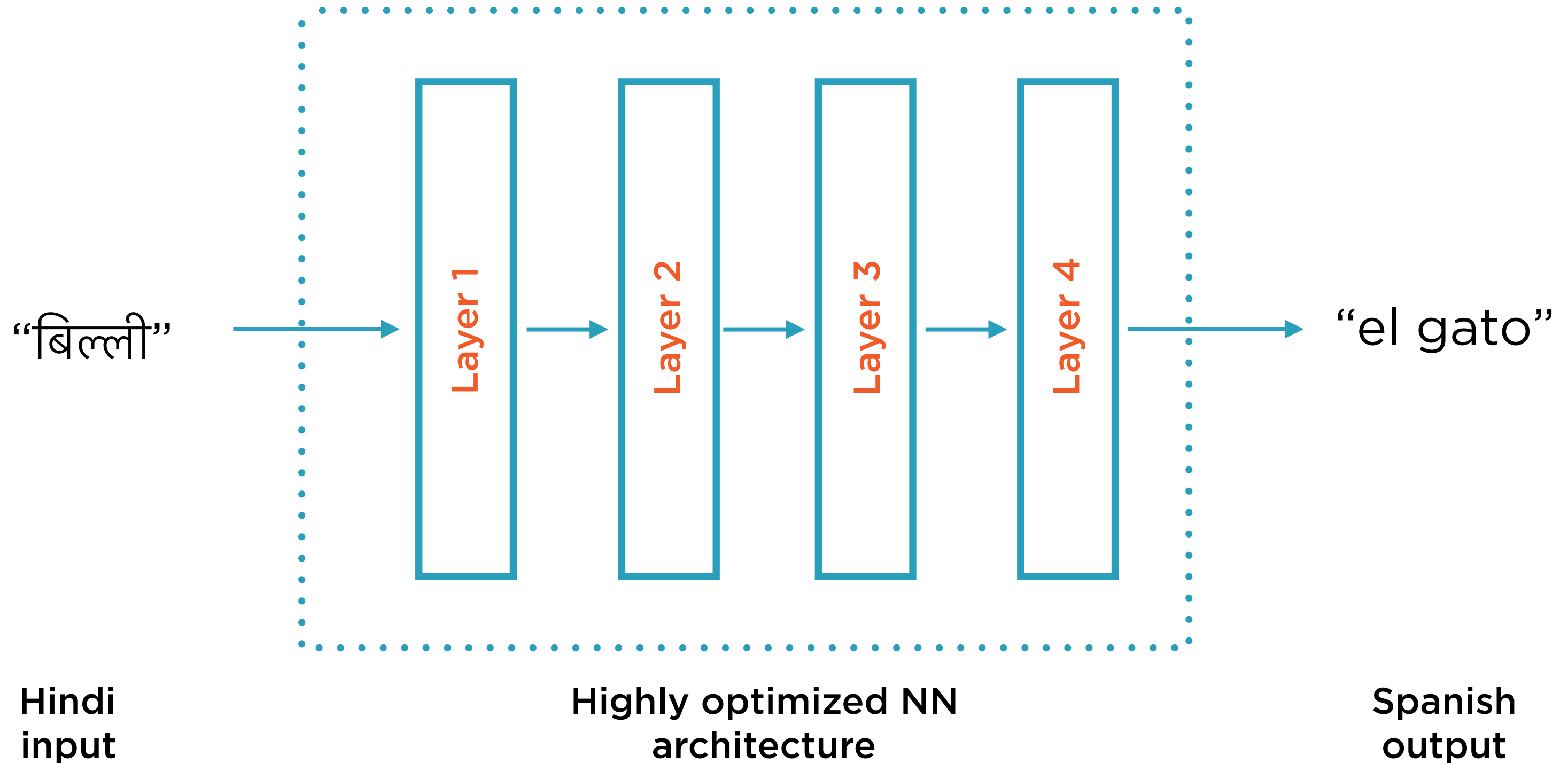
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Different	Similar	



# Freeze or Fine-tune Layers

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# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish



# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish

Re-use  
Architecture

“बिल्ली”

Layer 1

Layer 2

Layer 3

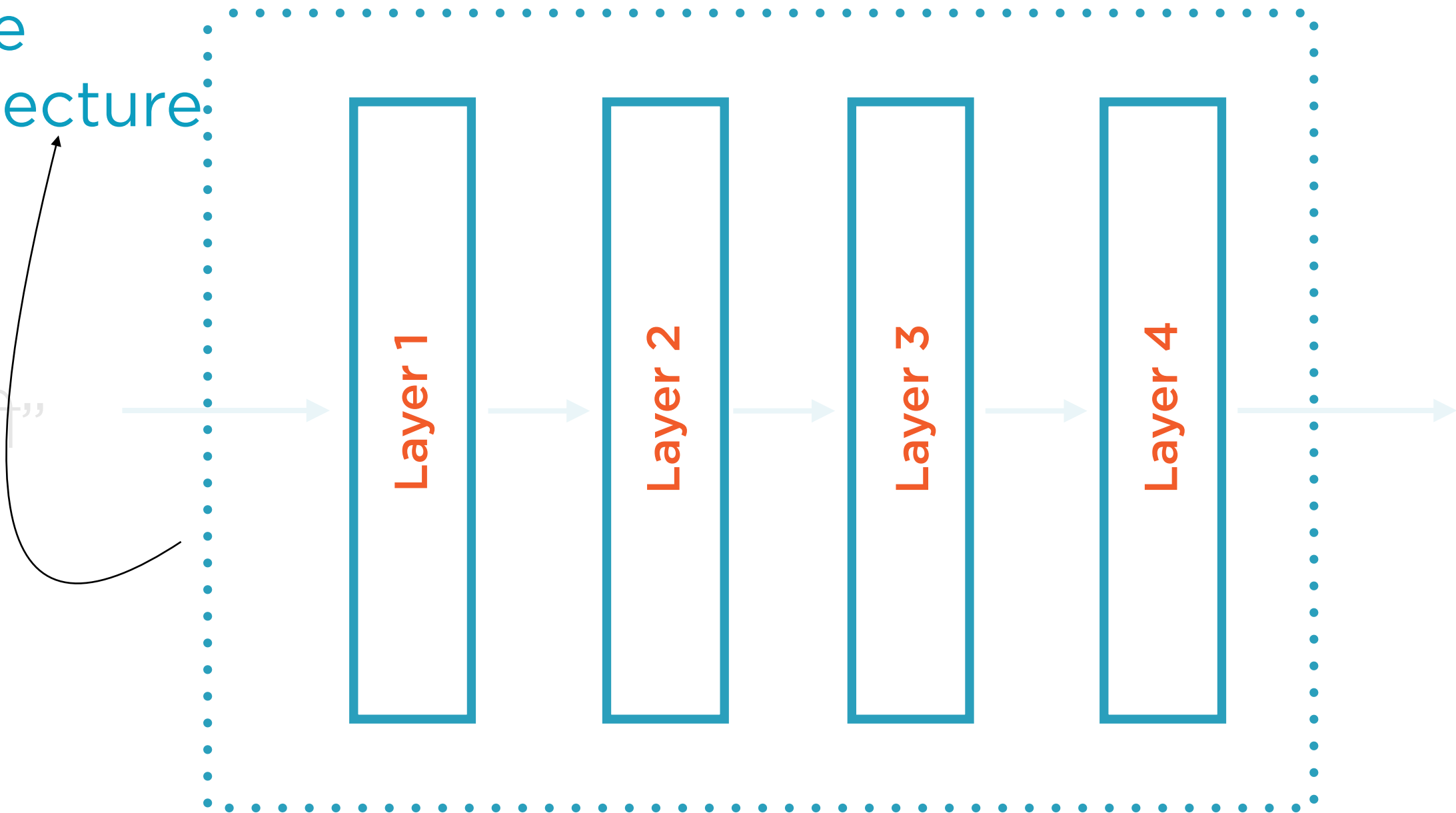
Layer 4

“el gato”

Hindi  
input

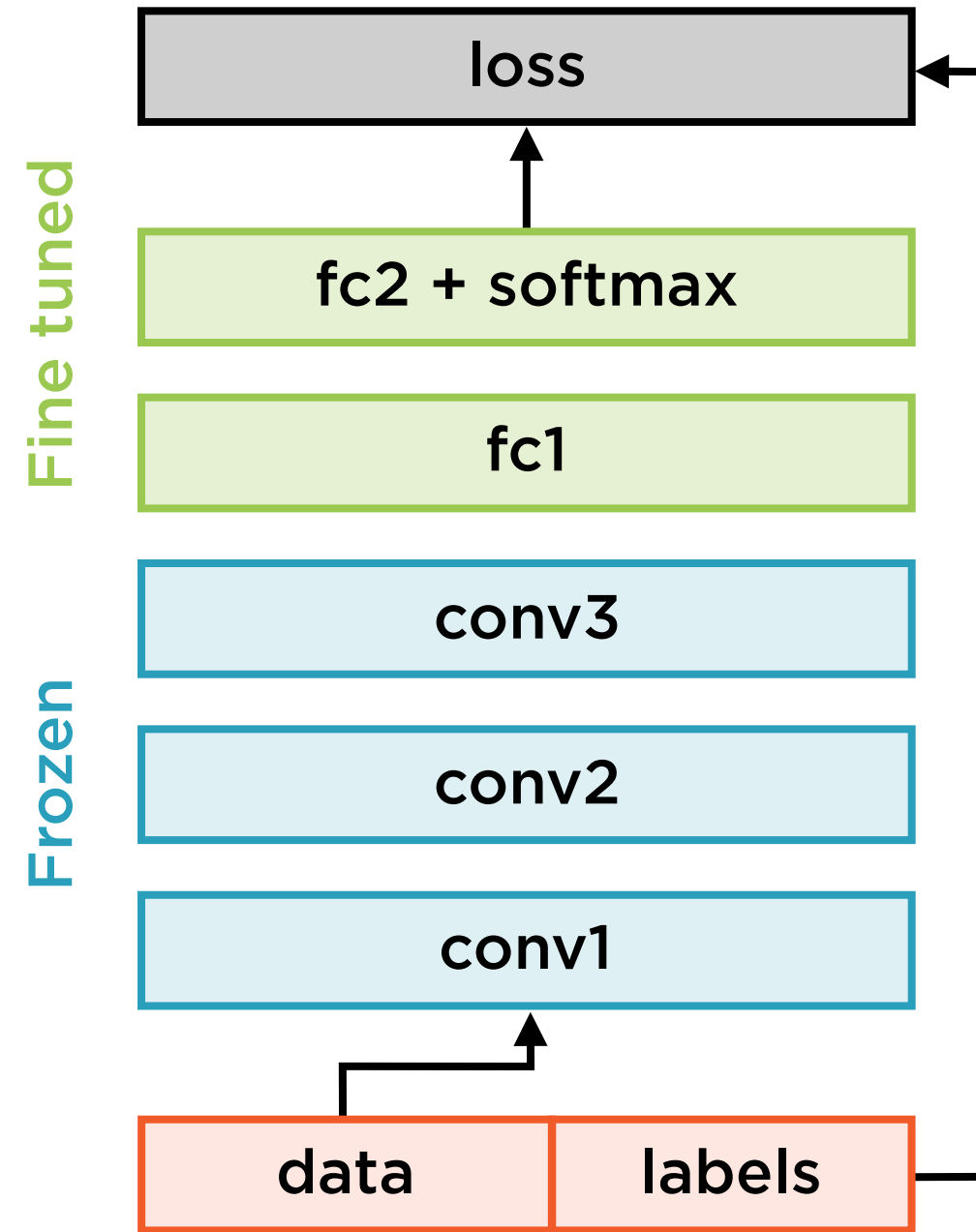
Highly Optimized NN  
architecture

Spanish  
output

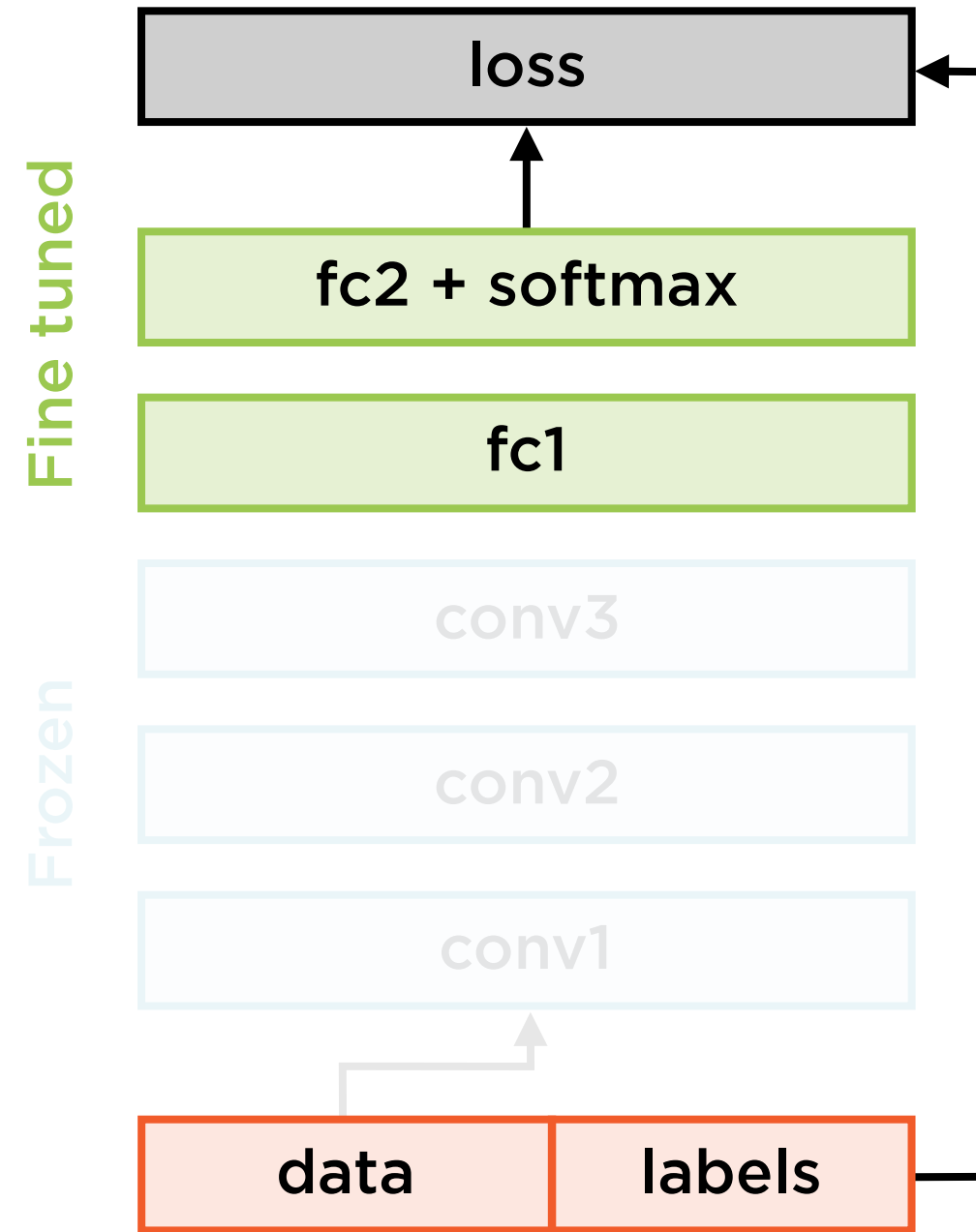


Usually the **top** (later) layers of the neural network are **more specific** to the problem and will need to be tuned

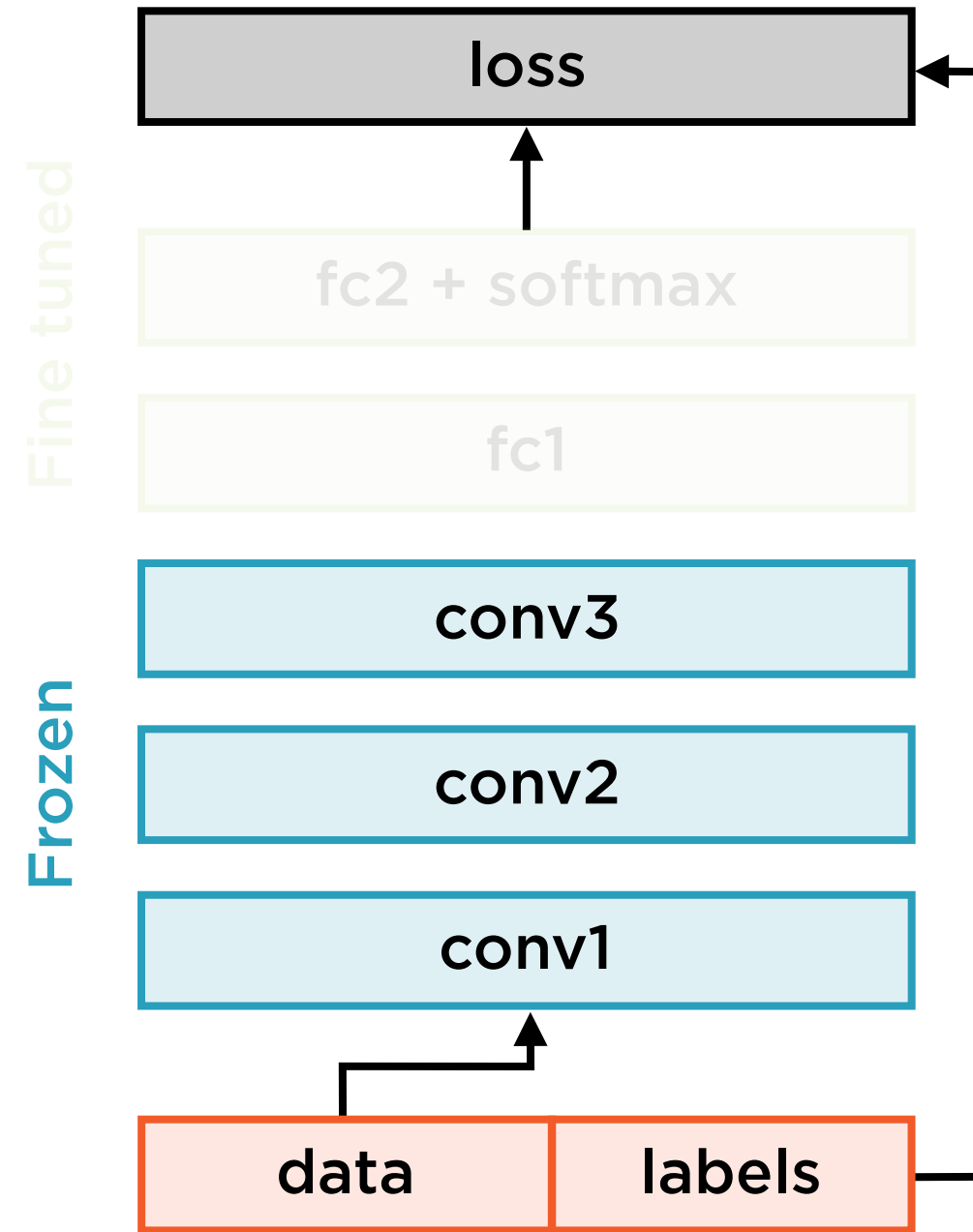
# Freeze or Fine-tune?



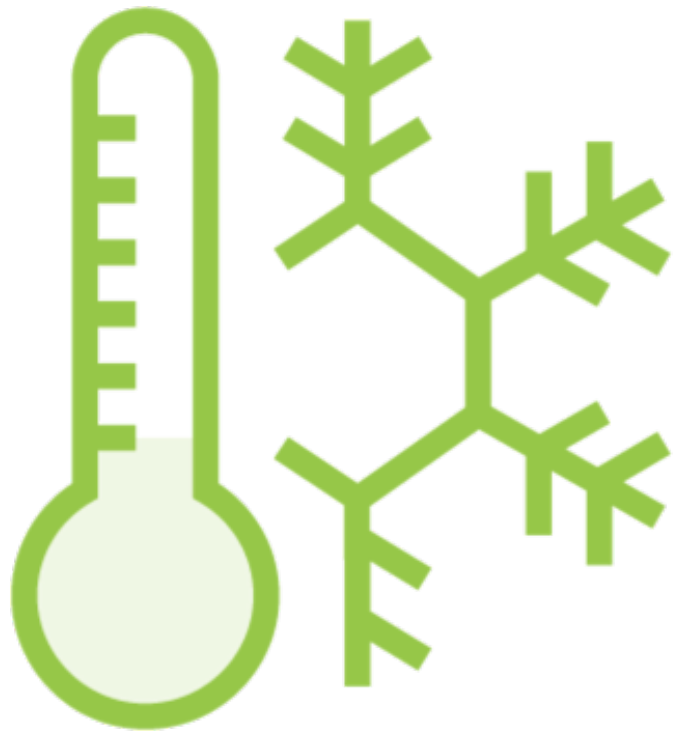
# Top-layers Specific to the Problem



# Bottom Layers: Freeze or Fine-tune?



# Freeze or Fine-tune?

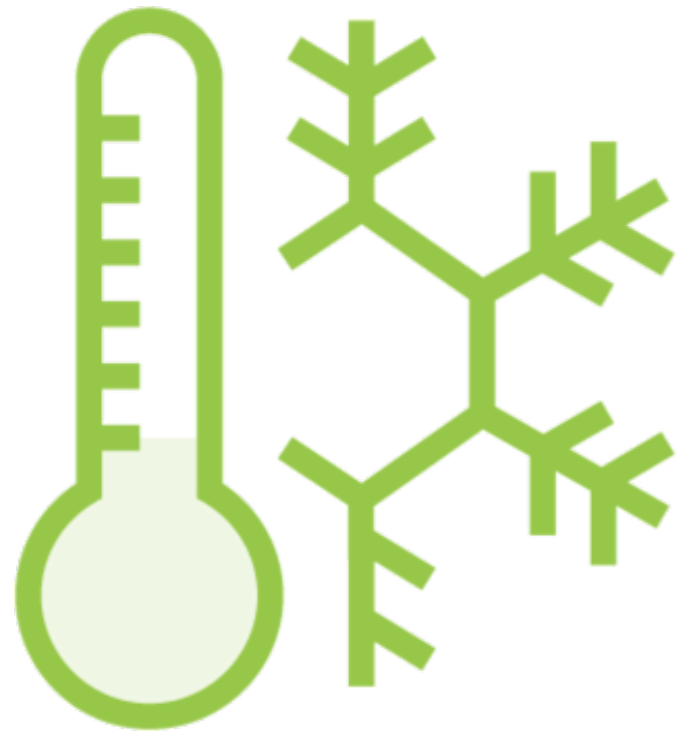


**Initial n layers can be frozen or fine tuned.**

- **Frozen:** not updated during training
- **Fine-tuned:** updated during training



# Freeze or Fine-tune?



**Which to do depends on target task:**

- **Freeze:** target task labels are scarce, and we want to avoid overfitting
- **Fine-tune:** target task labels are more plentiful

**Can set learning rates to be different for each layer**

# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish

Re-use  
Architecture

“बिल्ली”

Layer 1

Layer 2

Layer 3

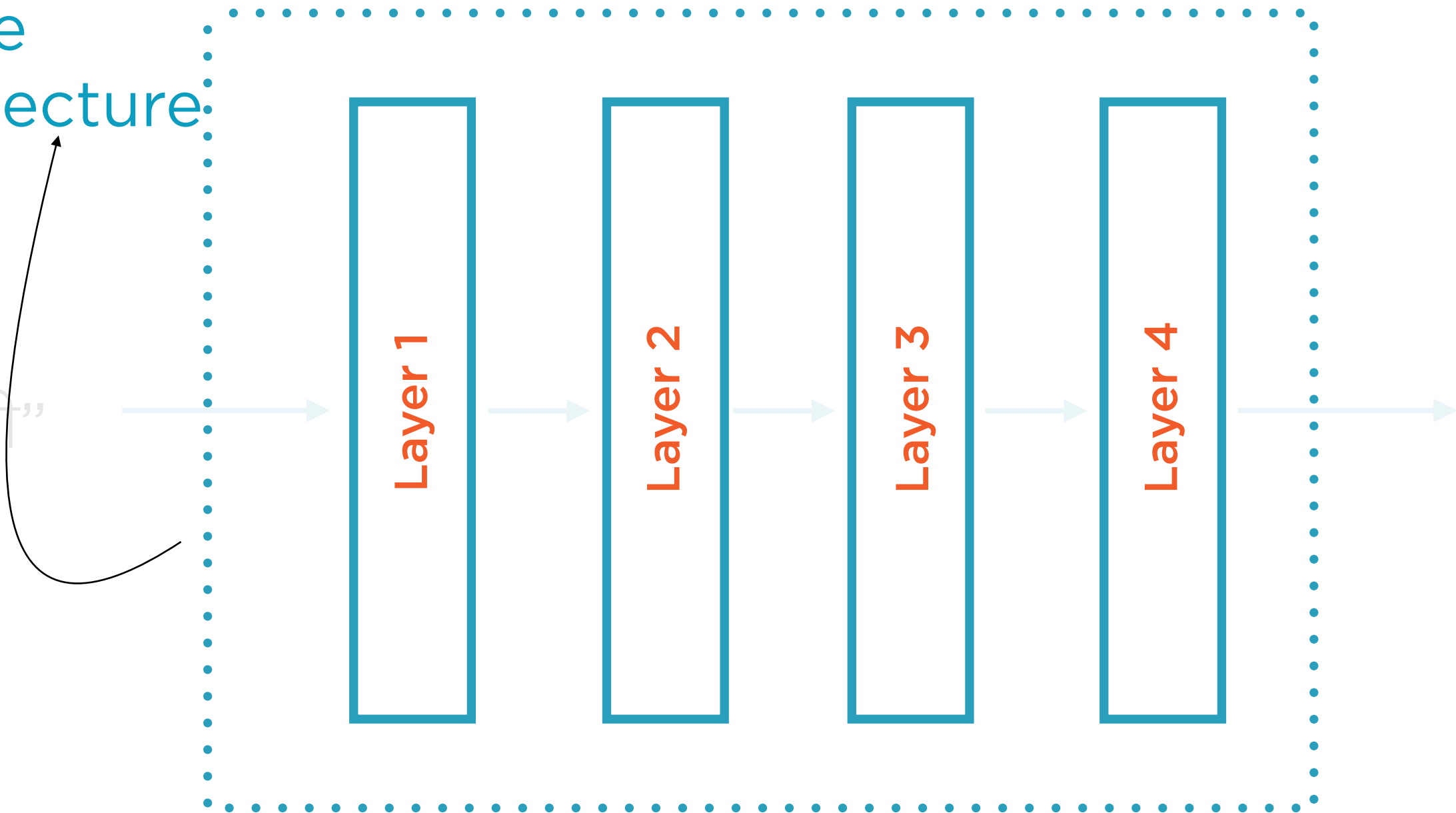
Layer 4

“el gato”

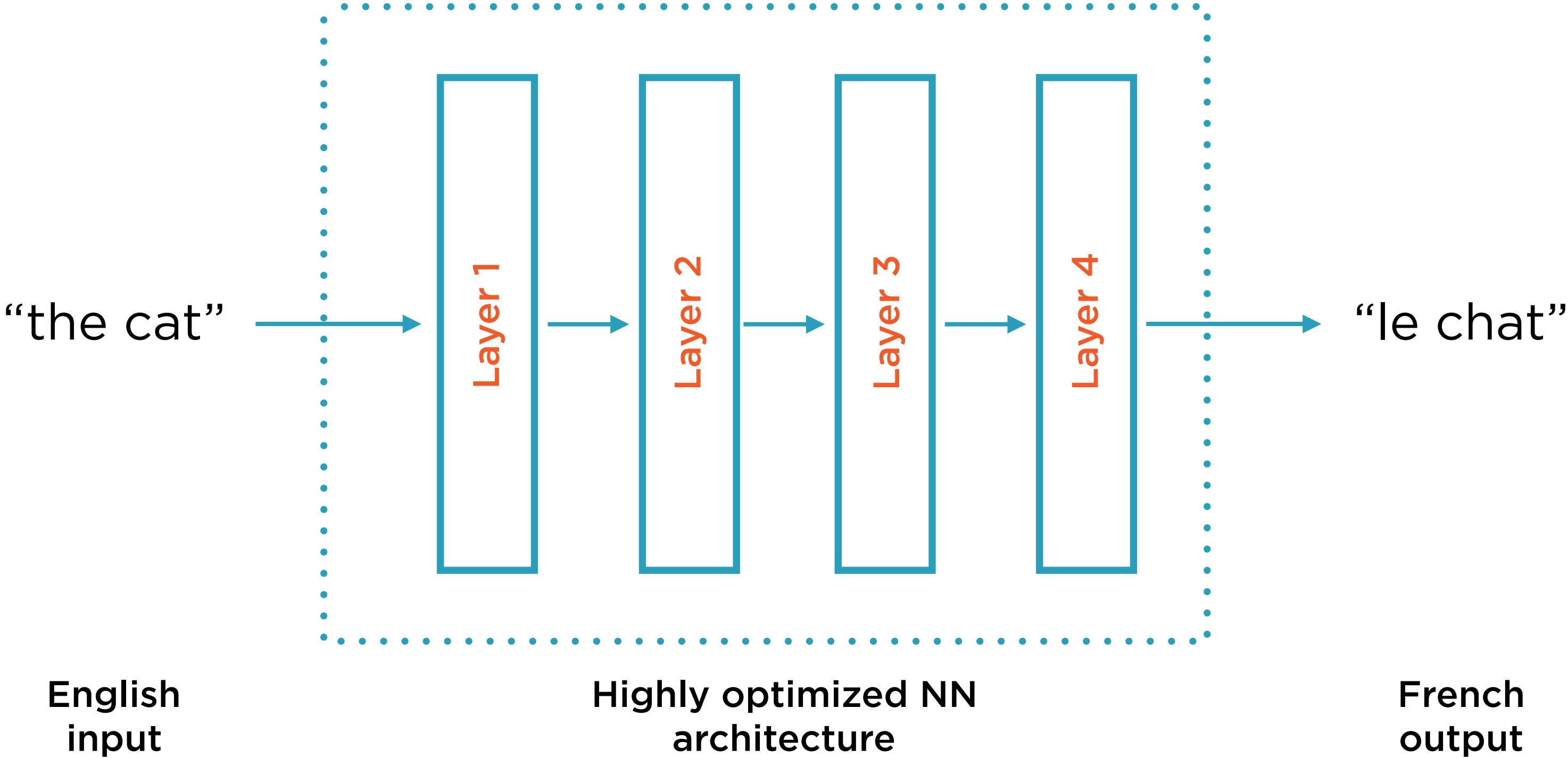
Hindi  
input

Highly Optimized NN  
architecture

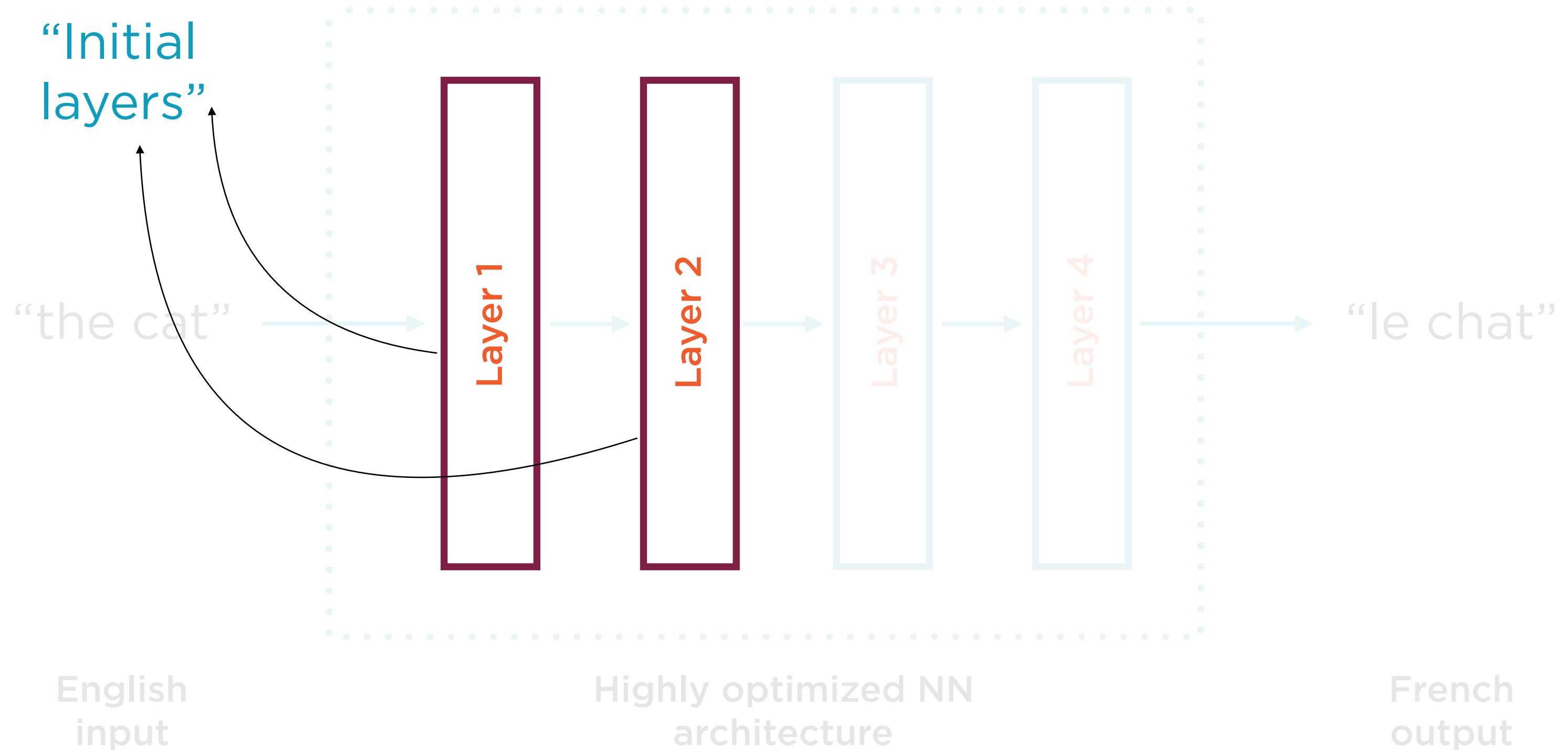
Spanish  
output



# Original Model: English to French



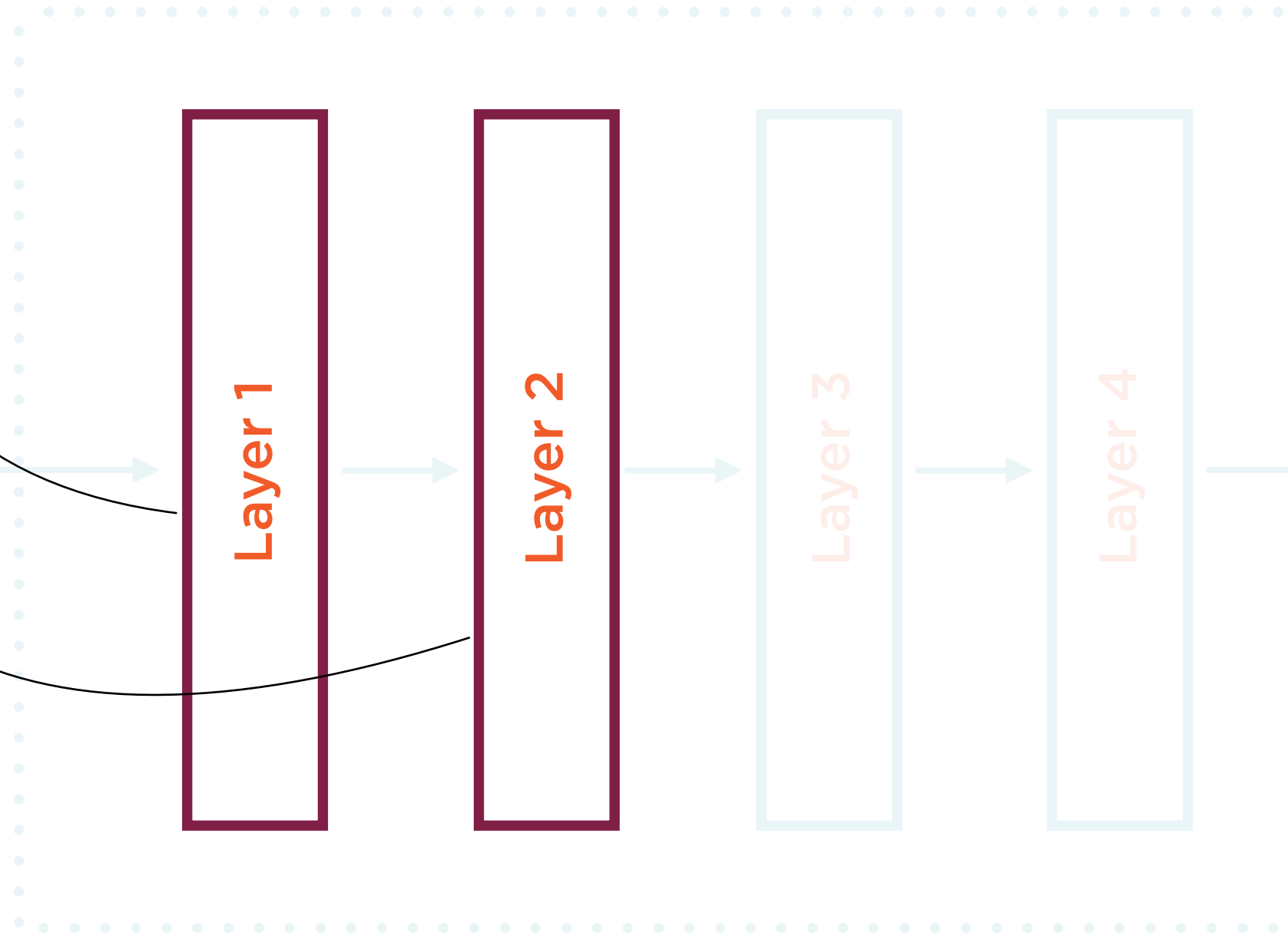
# Original Model: English to French



# Original Model: English to French

Feature  
extraction

“the cat”



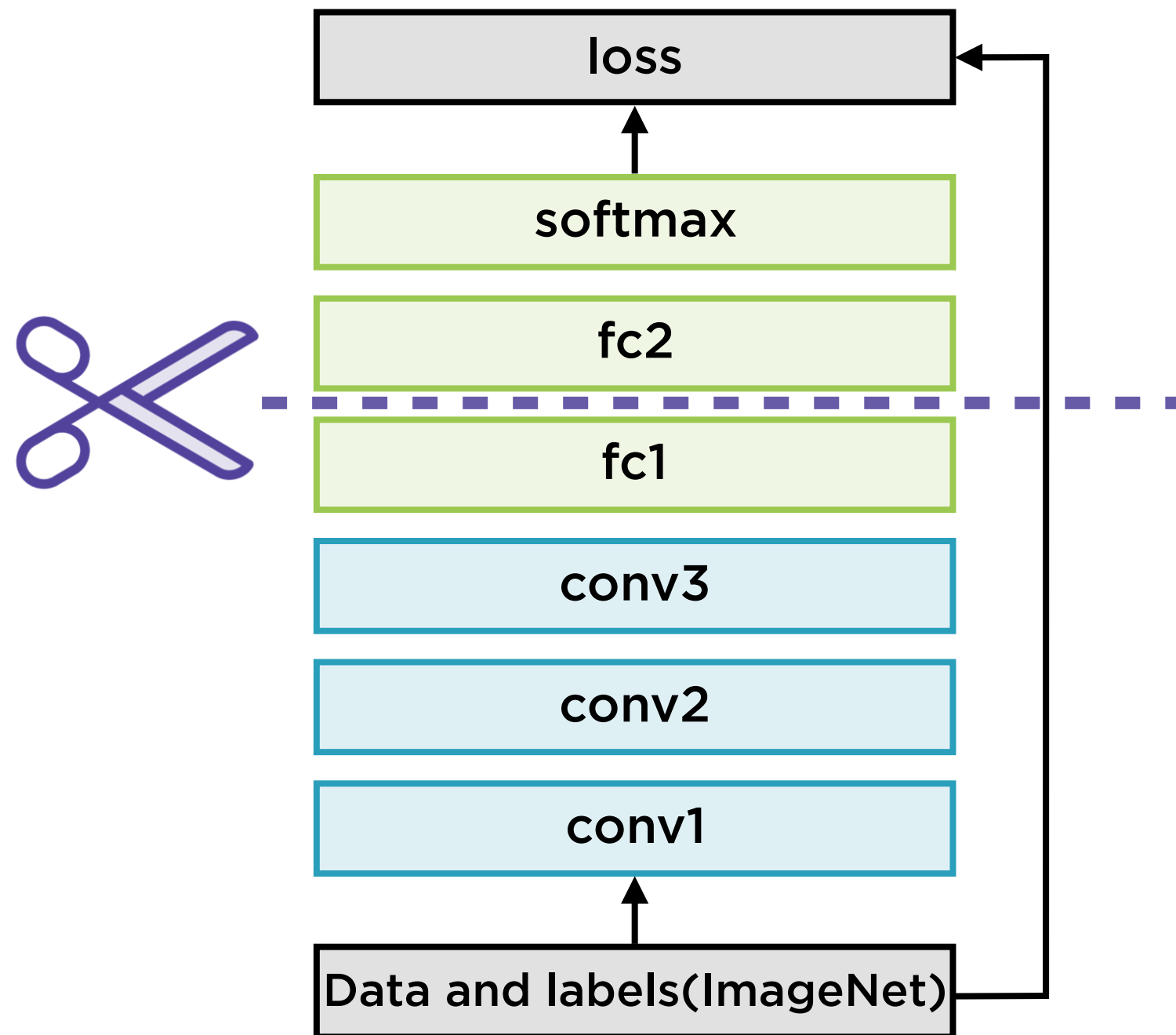
“le chat”

English  
input

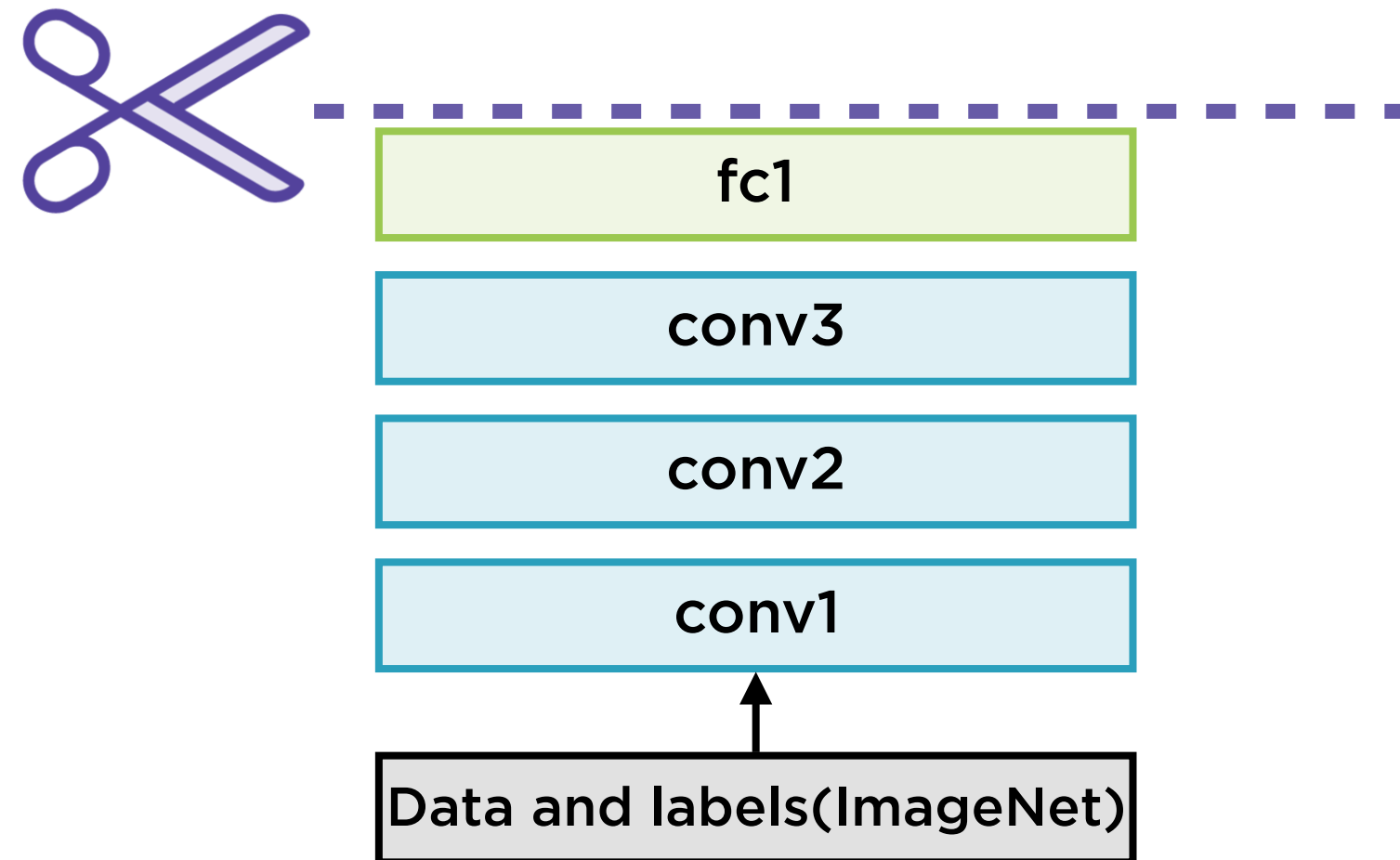
Highly optimized NN  
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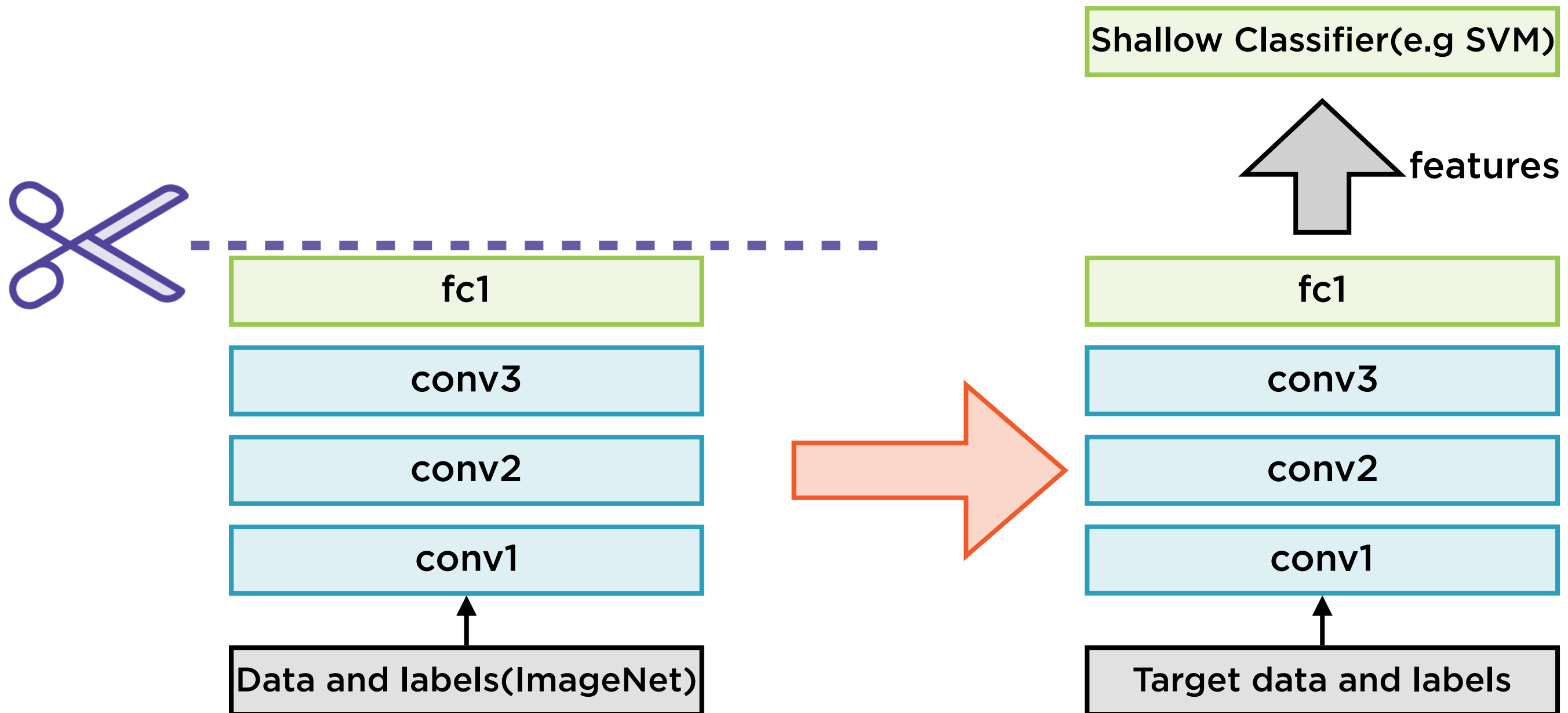
# Initial Layers as Feature Extractors



# Initial Layers as Feature Extractors

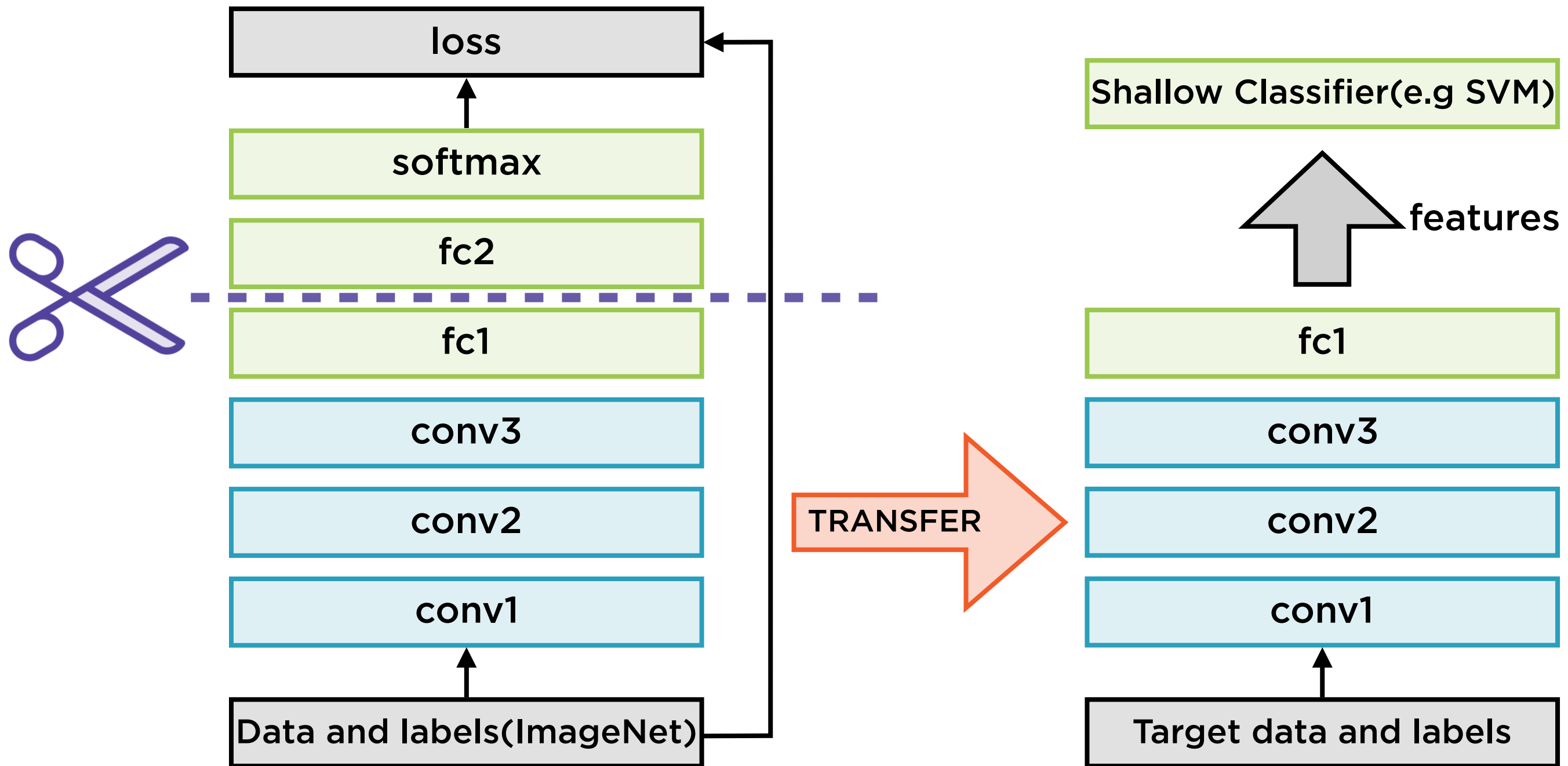


# Initial Layers as Feature Extractors

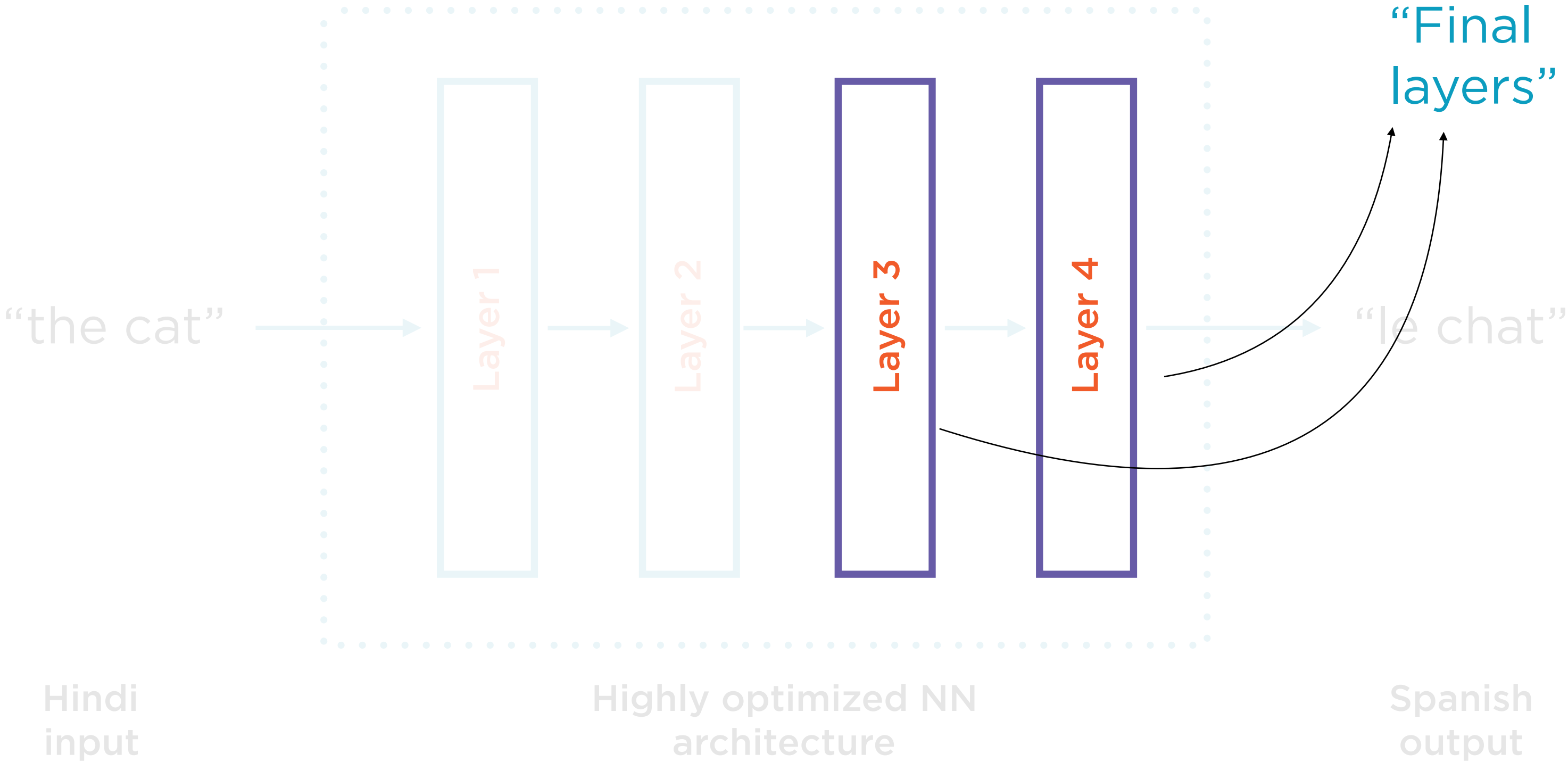




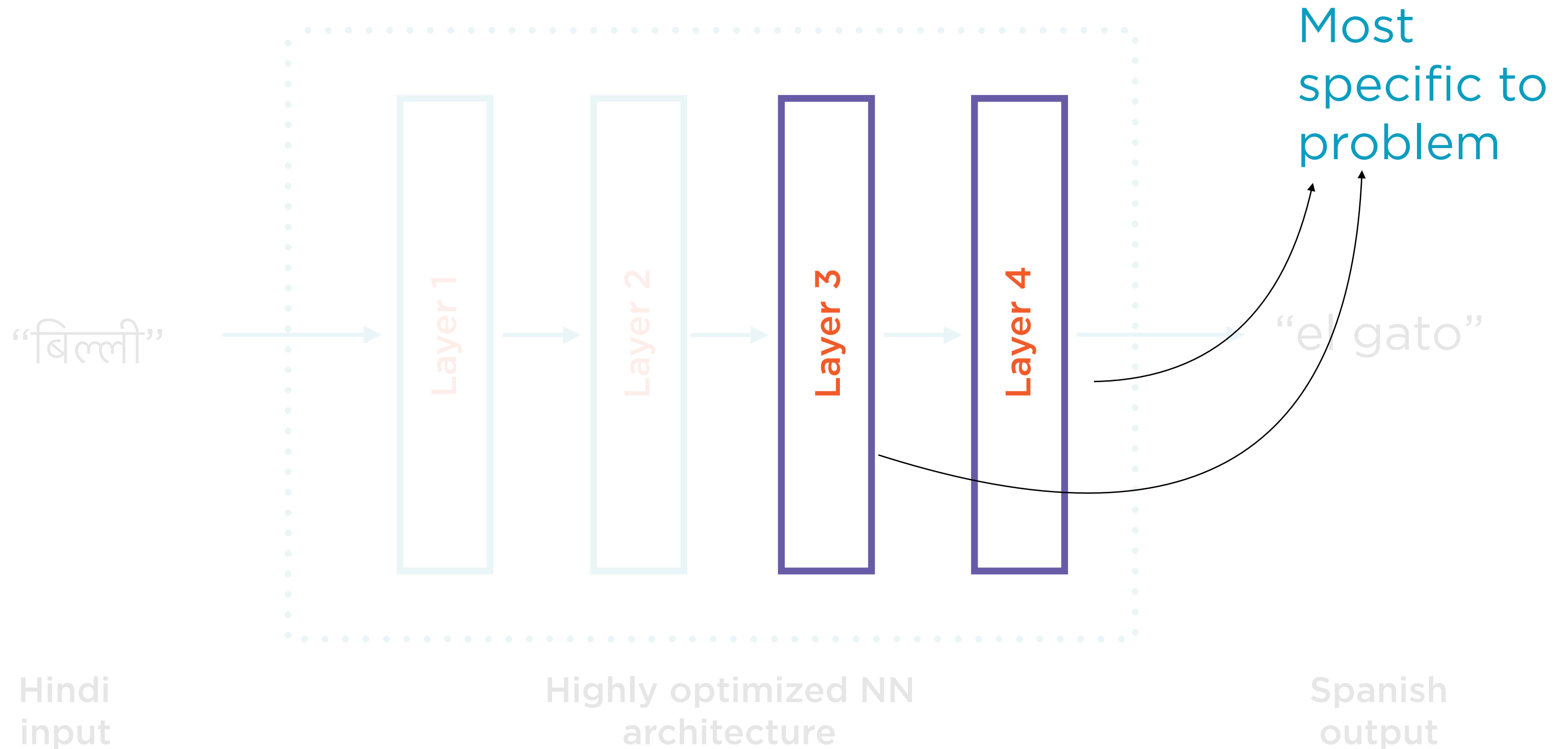
# Initial Layers as Feature Extractors



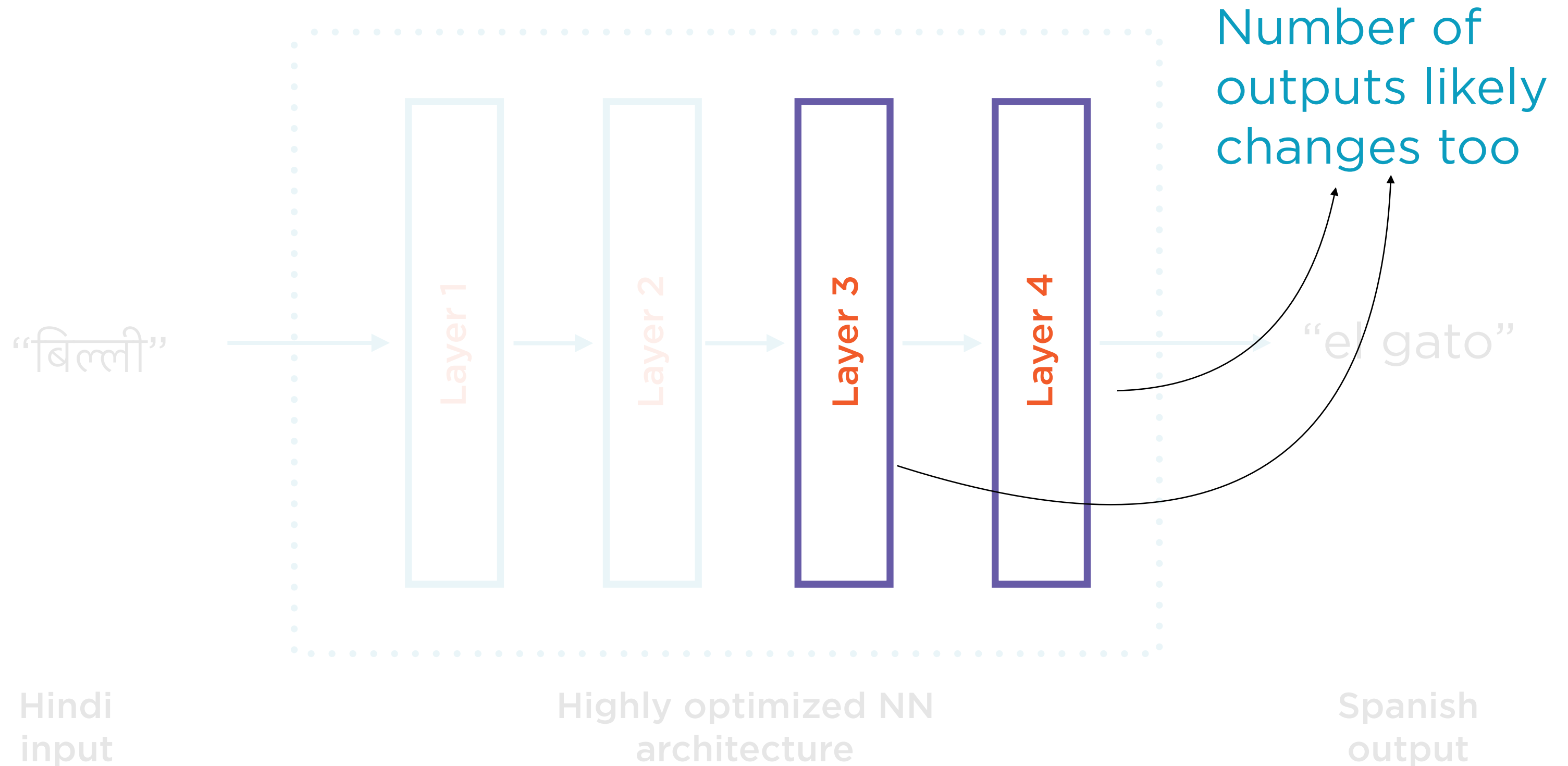
# Original Model: English to French



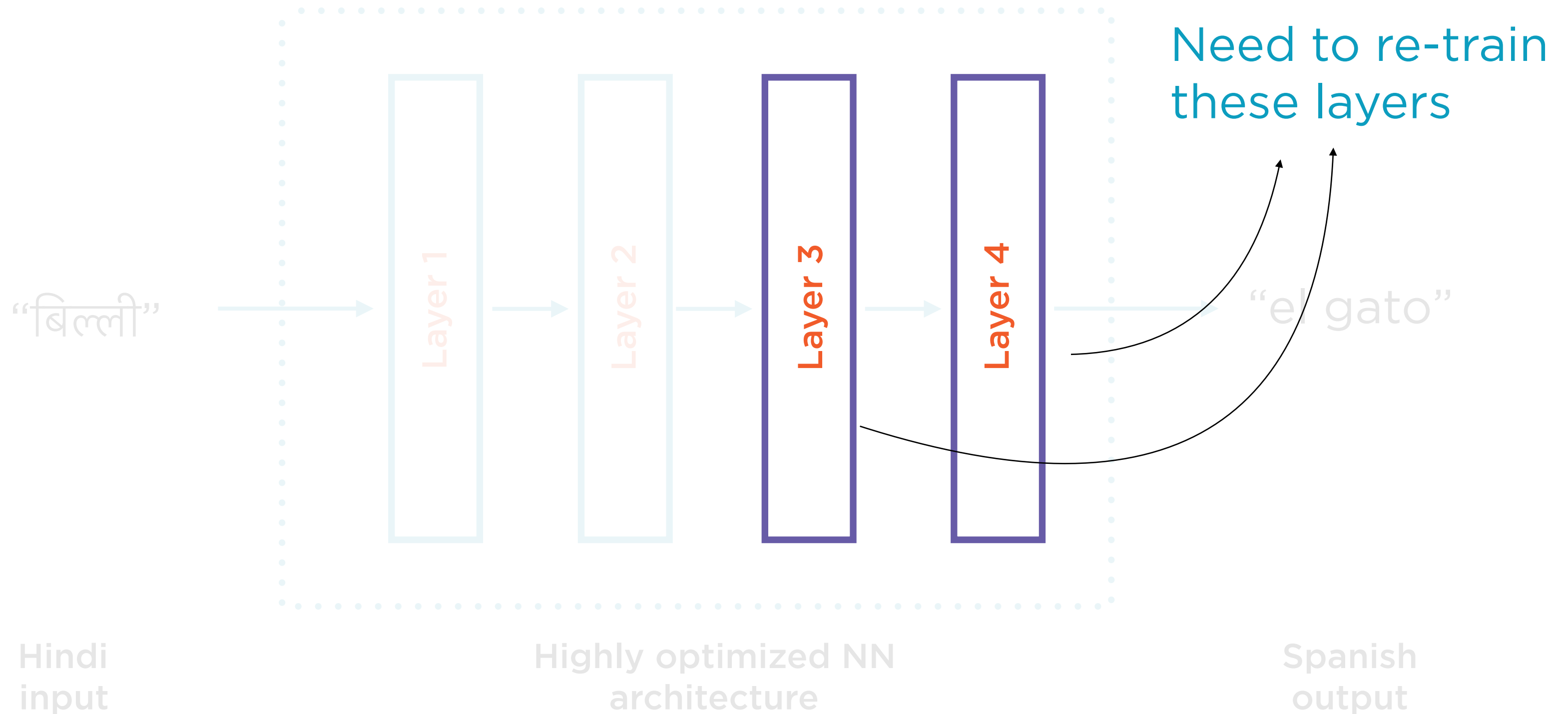
# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish



# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish



# Transfer Learning: Hindi to Spanish



# Benefits of Transfer Learning

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# Transfer Learning for Image Classification



**Initial layers detect features common to all images**

**Color blobs, general filters, edges, lines**

**Later layers learn abstract details more specific to the problem**

# Benefits of Transfer Learning



## **“Ride on the shoulders of giants”**

- NN architecture
- Choice of initialization
- Activation functions
- Number and density of layers



# Benefits of Transfer Learning



**“Do more with less”**

**Make do with less training data**

- English to French: Lots of training data
- Hindi to Spanish: Little or no training data

# Benefits of Transfer Learning



## **“Faster, cheaper”**

**Training process is far faster, easier**

- Smaller training data
- Only higher layers to train
- In a cloud-enabled world, less time => less money

# Transfer Learning in PyTorch

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# Transfer Learning in PyTorch



**Support for several famous NN architectures**

**torchvision.models**

- AlexNet
- VGG
- ResNet
- Densenet
- Inception and many others

PyTorch transfer learning  
models are trained on the  
ImageNet dataset

# ImageNet



**14 million images with 20,000 categories**

**Hand-annotated using crowdsourcing**

**Used for the famous annual contest**

**“ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge” (ILSVRC)**

# ImageNet



**PyTorch models trained on a subset  
with 1000 categories**

# Transfer Learning in PyTorch



**Support for several famous NN architectures**

**torchvision.models**

- AlexNet
- VGG
- ResNet
- Densenet
- Inception and many others



# Transfer Learning in PyTorch



Support for several famous NN architectures

`torchvision.models`

- **AlexNet**
- VGG
- ResNet
- Densenet
- Inception and many others

# AlexNet



**Big innovation - stack convolutional layers directly atop each other**

**Do not place pooling layers between these directly stacked layers**

**Mitigate overfitting risk by high dropout (50%) and randomly shifting training images by offsets**

# AlexNet



**Uses form of normalization called “local response normalization”**

**Strongly activated neurons inhibit nearby neurons**

**Causes neurons to “compete” to specialize in different types of features**

**AlexNet won 2012 ImageNet contest by a huge margin**

# Transfer Learning in PyTorch



Support for several famous NN architectures

`torchvision.models`

- AlexNet
- VGG
- **ResNet**
- Densenet
- Inception and many others

# ResNet



**Famous CNN architecture**

**Won the ImageNet challenge in 2015**

**Extremely deep**

**“Skip connections” aka shortcut connections**

**Shares many features with typical CNN architectures**

# ResNet



**Big innovation - “skip connections”**

**Connect output of lower layers to far-ahead higher layers**

**Batch normalization after each convolution and before each activation**

**Model is forced to focus on what is not learnt by intermediate layers**

**“Residual Learning”**

# Transfer Learning in PyTorch



Support for several famous NN architectures

`torchvision.models`

- AlexNet
- VGG
- ResNet
- **Densenet**
- Inception and many others

# DenseNet



**Extends idea of residual learning**

**Big innovation ~ Dense blocks, within which layers are densely connected to each other**



# DenseNet



**Each dense block consists of layers with three components**

- Batch normalization
- ReLU activation
- 3x3 convolution

# DenseNet



**DenseNet leads to compact models with relatively few parameters**

**Training is easy due to phenomenon called implicit deep supervision**

**Dense connections lead to gradient flowing back more easily**

# Transfer Learning in PyTorch



Support for several famous NN architectures

`torchvision.models`

- AlexNet
- **VGG**
- ResNet
- Densenet
- Inception and many others

# VGG



**Big innovation - stacking multiple small filters without pooling**

**E.g. Stack 3 convolutional layers of 3x3 rather than 1 convolutional layer of 7x7**

**Increase representational power without too many parameters**

**Small filters also provide regularization and mitigate overfitting**

# Demo

**Set up a deep learning VM on the cloud**

# Demo

**Explore pre-trained models available  
for image classification in PyTorch**

# Summary

**Understand the use of pre-trained models and transfer learning**

**Understand source and destination domains**

**Understanding source and destination tasks**

**Learn when to use transfer learning**

**Explore PyTorch support for transfer learning**